

WINTHROP BOARD of HEALTH MEETING

July 16, 2020 4:00 PM

REMOTE PARTICIPATION (C. Vitale, Host)

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair: Bill Schmidt; Member: Susan Maguire.

TOWN of WINTHROP: Meredith Hurley, Director Public Health and Clinical Services; Al Legee, Commissioner Inspectional Services (arrival 4:46pm); Rob DeMarco, Councilor at Large; Betsy Shane, Chamber of Commerce.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Schmidt called the Board of Health meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

PURPOSE of MEETING: Discuss the recent spike in COVID-19 cases.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

S. Maguire read the email received 7/16/2020 at 4:07 pm from Vice Chair, A. Weins who is away on vacation. Specifically, do we know what is driving the surge? We may not be doing enough messaging.

DISCUSSION:

- Meredith Hurley:
 - o Winthrop has had 46 new COVID-19 cases since July 4, 2020.
 - o DPH reported 39 cases between July 4, 2020 and July 13, 2020 of which 50% were under the age of 18 years old. Anecdotally, increased socializing among this age group, e.g., July 4 parties, days at the beach, street hockey, and basketball courts may explain the spike.
 - o Seeing more asymptomatic cases, and fewer hospitalizations.
 - o Contact tracing looks back 72 hours or dates of significant social events.

- o Contacts need to understand the need to quarantine for 14 days regardless if they've had a negative test before day 14 as they can test positive up to day 14.
- o Parks and Rec have 2 staff assigned to monitor Yirrell Beach.
- o DPH discourages towns to use their Police Force for enforcement purposes as they see enforcement under Health due to 'Health Orders'. The Board disagrees as they see the Police Department as one of their agents, but will check to confirm their role.
- Group: Possible interventions:
 - o Place Robo Calls to all homes re: need for all to do their part and be vigilant with face coverings, social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings.
 - o Consider a curfew for anyone under age 18 years of age.
 - o Consider consequences, if indicated, e.g., beach closings, nuisance fines (would require documentation).
 - o Send the message: Do the Right Thing.
 - o Increase patrolling of beaches

COMMISSIONER OF INSPECTIONAL SERVICES (ISD) UPDATE (AL LEGGEE):

- Restaurants are for the most part complying with the guidelines. Will be revisiting the Winthrop Arms this week and will impose a fine if found to be in noncompliance.
- Will start to visit restaurants on the weekends.
- Received two calls re: Yirrell Beach (> numbers, and lack of face coverings)
- Unable to locate the ice cream truck seen in town last week. ISD does not issue permits to this entity, WPD does.

ACTION STEPS:

- Meredith and Chief Delehanty will be taping a COVID-19 Q&A session tomorrow at WCAT, which will be aired on WCAT and accessible via Internet.
- Meredith working with Town's PR firm on creating Info graphics to simplify contact tracing efforts, quarantine instructions, etc.
- Circulation of Info graphics will be supported by town businesses, e.g., Winthrop Market. Chamber of Commerce willing to support distribution efforts as well.
- Winthrop Police Department will be increasing beach patrols.
- Chair Schmidt will email Chief Delehanty acknowledging WPD's support and cooperation.
- Continue daily tracking of new cases (MH)
- Update COVID-19 graphics, posted on town social media (SM)
- M. Hurley to research best mode of ventilation in churches/houses of worship, e.g., open windows vs. AC.
- Discuss curfew recommendation at the next Board of Health meeting on July 28, 2020.

Ms. Maguire acknowledged Councilor at Large, Tracy Honan's concerns and input sent via email on July 13, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT: S. Maguire motioned to adjourn at 5:16 pm, seconded by Chair Schmidt, approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Maguire

