

**Longmeadow Board of Health
Remote Teleconference Meeting
7:00 PM
Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Dr. Robert Rappaport, Chair, and members present by verbal roll call from the Chair were Dr. Barry Izenstein, Dr. Robert Baevsky, Dr. Richard Steingart and Maripat Toye, MS, RN. Beverly Hirshhorn, CHO, was also in attendance and in roll call. Dr. Rappaport started the meeting reading the Governors Open Town Meeting protocol defining the guidelines for all Town meetings as gatherings are suspended since March 18, 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All the information on this guideline is posted on the Longmeadow Town Website.

Others in attendance: Aimee Petrosky, Director of Public Health, East Longmeadow, Lyn Simmons, Town Manager, Longmeadow, Rebecca Townsend, Longmeadow Town Moderator, Steven Marantz, Select Board candidate, Marie Angelides, Select Board, Toss Angelides, MD, new BOH Associate Member, Chief John Dearborn, LPD and Emergency Manager.

1. Public Comment Period 7:00-7:05PM

There were no resident comments outside of the agenda items. Select Board member, Marie Angelides announced the appointment of Toss Angelides, MD, to the BOH as the new non-voting Associate Member. She also announced that Dr. R. Rappaport was re-appointed to a three-year term and Maripat Toye, RN, was also reappointed for a three-year term. These appointments were voted upon at the Select Board meeting June 1.

2. Acceptance of May 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The BOH reviewed the BOH meeting minutes from May 19, 2020. The motion to approve the BOH meeting minutes was called by Dr. B. Izenstein. Second for motion approval: Dr. R. Rappaport. A yes vote to approve: Dr. R. Baevsky, B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport, Dr. R. Steingart and M. Toye, RN. A no vote: none.

3. Temporary emergency variances for opening of Outdoor dining restaurants

The Governor has announced that there will be opening of outdoor dining in the Commonwealth as part of the next phase in the COVID pandemic and lifting certain restrictions. Longmeadow has "BOH Outdoor Dining" regulations in place and this new situation requires that the BOH needs to consider temporary emergency conditions in the variances for perhaps a 3-month period to allow restaurants to set up outdoor dining. There are required conditions in the Governors new orders as the tent or awning set ups must include 50 % open sides, social distancing and spacing tables, etc. BOH discussed the two provisions in our regulations that need variances to allow restaurants to follow the current orders and open. Marie Angelides shared that the Select Board is also working on streamlining rules and regulations and having an emergency meeting next week to discuss the issue of the business openings. The Longmeadow police, the building inspector, BOH CHO and the Town Manager have all been in discussions together about how to support getting the business' open again following the new orders from the Governor. The BOH voted to give temporary emergency variances for a 3-month period to restaurants that wish to open and create outdoor dining and waive the requirement to have non-permeable floors (which the parking lot asphalt is not permeable) and that the restaurant has a direct entrance from the interior of the restaurant. This 3-month variance

on these two items allows restaurants not to have those two requirements at this time. The CHO will be working with the restaurants that wish to set up these out door dining areas to assure they have met the current orders and guidelines. A motion to approve the 2 variances to the existing BOH Outdoor Dining regulations for a 3-month period was called by Dr. R. Baevsky. A second to the motion Dr. B. Izenstein. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky, Dr. B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport, Dr. R. Steingart and M. Toye, RN. A no vote: none.

The BOH voted a month ago to not allow mobile food licensing until further notice. The ice cream vendor who parks in the Longmeadow Shops parking lot has appealed to operate again. The owner states she is aware of the social distancing and COVID concerns and assures she will mark areas with tape and not allow gathering or crowding around the ice cream truck. The BOH discussed this as a “take away” only mobile food situation. The motion to allow this “take away” only mobile ice cream truck to operate again was called by Dr. R. Baevsky. A second to the motion was Dr. B. Izenstein. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky, Dr. B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport, Dr. R. Steingart and M. Toye. A no vote: none.

The Farmers Market is opening next week under restrictions set by the state (distancing, face masks, hygiene provisions, etc.) They are under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture rules and the Longmeadow BOH role is providing monitoring of the area and support.

4. Discussion of Shared Public Health Services Plan

The Town Manager and Select Board are requesting input and support of the Longmeadow BOH to the proposed Shared Public Health Services Plan that was discussed at the last BOH meeting on May 19,2020. They would like a vote soon to maintain the timeframe as originally planned. Lyn had sent answers to the BOH members on their questions from the last meeting. Members still had questions regarding the budgets of the two towns and the organizational charts. There was a question on the staffing and managing the division of “shared services” and the definition of specifics in these services and if Town Counsel or a legal counsel had reviewed the plan. The BOH needs more time to review the documents. The CHO will accept all BOH members new questions and compile them. The Chair tabled a vote on this and no vote was taken at this meeting on this issue.

Marie Angelides shared that the Select Board will be having emergency meetings 6/15, 6/17 and 6/22 and the “planned” Town meeting is on the calendar for June 23. She requested some decisions from the BOH on the issue as soon as possible to coordinate with the Select Board and Town Meeting issues. The Chair of the BOH will set up another BOH meeting next week.

5. Review of Proposed Town Meeting Protocol

Rebecca Townsend led the discussion of the proposed protocol for the Town Meeting that is currently planned for June 23, 2020 at the Longmeadow High School on the outdoor practice football field. A detailed copy of the proposal, protocol and mitigation plan was provided to all the members of the BOH via email prior to this meeting. The protocol was developed in collaboration with Chief John Dearborn, Lyn Simmons, Select Board members and input from the CHO. The protocol was a thoughtful and thorough description of “Town of Longmeadow Public Gathering Health and Safety Plan for COVID-19.” The plan states it includes “current CDC Guidance for public gatherings and the state and local guidance and or orders.” A lengthy discussion

with the BOH members asking several questions about the proposal and questions from the proposers of the plan to the BOH members. The Governor has not given any opinion or orders in regard to specifically "Town Meetings." Currently large gatherings are still not allowed in the Commonwealth and the Governor and the MA DPH have ordered gatherings not be held until after July 18 when in the next phase of opening the state and considering the COVID-19 case numbers. Rebecca explained that "municipalities" are able to function to meet legislative responsibilities. The urgency that this meeting has to be held is to vote and manage the Town budget. Lyn shared that a survey was sent out to 161 people in town and 90 answered that they would attend a meeting under this plan. A quorum of 50 is required for the meeting. Town meeting usually has 400-600 attend. Rebecca stated that Town Meetings cannot be held "virtually" or via conference calls. Chief Dearborn has worked on the plan with the group and is open to manage the event with any and all the support he and the dept. can offer to help maintain the social distancing and safety for the attendees. He will send out parameters about the meeting and disclose risk issues at this gathering to residents of the Town. The group would like to get an answer from the BOH on their plan and approval ASAP to plan the event. BOH members express concerns over a large gathering at this time in the COVID-19 pandemic, the demographics of the usual group that attend the Town Meetings which is the elderly, the urgency for "now" vs. delaying a couple weeks, the risk to the health and safety of all in attendance and that all gradations have been delayed if not cancelled in town and a Town Meeting would be held which is a large gathering as well. Suggestions to delay the meeting till after July 18, have the time earlier in the day to avoid heat issues, earlier rather than later in the summer to avoid other issues public health issues (Lyme, etc.). The BOH would like to consult with the local Infectious Diseases Specialist to obtain more input about the risk to the health and safety of attendees in a large gathering at this time. The Chair of the BOH and the members decided to defer approval of the Town Meeting Proposal until consultation with the Infectious Disease Specialist. A motion to defer: Dr. B. Izenstein. Second on the motion: Dr. R. Rappaport. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky, Dr. B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport, Dr. R. Steingart and M. Toye, RN, no vote: none.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 8:35 PM by Dr. R. Rappaport. A second to adjourn: M. Toye, RN. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky, Dr. B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport, Dr. R. Steingart and M. Toye, RN. A no vote: none.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maripat Toye, MS, RN
Longmeadow Board of Health