

**Longmeadow Board of Health
Remote Teleconference Meeting
7:00 PM
Wednesday, June 11, 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 and Dr. Toss Angelides, BOH Associate Member. 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: Lyn Simmons, Town Manager, Longmeadow, Rebecca Townsend, Longmeadow Town Moderator, Marie Angelides, Select Board and Mr. Belcher-Timme, Town Counsel. Rebecca Townsend announced she was recording the meeting.

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

There were no resident comments outside of the agenda items.

2. Acceptance of June 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The BOH reviewed the BOH meeting minutes from June 3, 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. Governors new orders to allow re-opening of Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts and Playgrounds

The Governor has announced the next COVID-19 Phase and allowing the opening of tennis and basketball courts and playgrounds. There remain some "COVID-19" restrictions in place. A motion to rescind the previous BOH decision to close tennis courts was called by Dr. R. Baevsky. A second to the motion Dr. R. Rappaport. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky, Dr. B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport, Dr. R. Steingart and M. Toye, RN. A no vote: none. A motion to rescind the previous BOH decision to close basketball courts was called by Dr. R. Rappaport. A second to the motion was Dr. R. Baevsky. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky, Dr. B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport, Dr. R. Steingart and M. Toye, RN. A no vote: none. A motion to rescind the previous BOH decision to close playgrounds and to open them with signage that usage "is at the user's own risk" was called by Dr. R. Rappaport. A second to the motion was Dr. R. Baevsky. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky, Dr. B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport, Dr. R. Steingart and M. Toye, RN. A no vote: none.

4. Discussion of Shared Public Health Services Plan

The BOH discussed a few more questions and concerns regarding the Shared Public Health Services Plan in sharing some public health services with the of the Town of East Longmeadow. The BOH discussed this at the May 19 and June 3 BOH meetings. 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 could review the plan. A motion to vote to accept the Shared Public Health Services Plan as long as the Select Board receives conditional legal approval was called by Dr. R. Rappaport. A second to the motion: Dr. B. Izenstein. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky, Dr. B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport and M. Toye, RN. A no vote: none. Not voting: Dr. R. Steingart.

5. Vote on Town Meeting Protocol

MA DPH issued guidance on Town meetings today at about 5 pm EST titled “Guidance for Town Meetings to Address COVID-19, as of June.” The guidance included purpose, general standards, attendance (including Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020), social distancing, face coverings, cleaning and disinfecting and hygiene protocols and notification of positive cases. The release was discussed by Rebecca Townsend and she requests the BOH support the plan for the Town meeting to be held as planned on June 23, 2020 at the LHS outdoor practice football field. She provided the updated “COVID-19” plan which included safety and hygiene and social distancing provisions. A detailed copy of the protocol 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.” The BOH members concerns included that currently large gatherings are still not allowed in the Commonwealth and the Governor and the MA DPH had ordered gatherings not be held until after July 18 when in the next phase of opening the state and in considering the COVID-19 case numbers. Also, of concern is 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. An Infectious Diseases Specialist was consulted by a board member and the advice was to consider delaying the meeting a couple weeks and monitor case numbers and see if cases continue to decrease and then hold the meeting. The importance of this meeting is to vote and manage Town budget at this time and if the number of COVID-19 cases surges, Town leadership will reconsider having the meeting in June. The Town Manager will be releasing information for residents on the meeting and the importance of people making safe decisions about attending, if they are in a category of risk to their health if they attend.

Dr. B. Izenstein called for a motion to end the discussion and to vote on the issue of having Town Meeting June 23, 2020 and to follow the protocol and provisions in the current Proposal. Dr. R. Rappaport gave a second to the motion to vote.

A vote to approve the Town Meeting Proposal as submitted today by the Town Moderator was called by Dr. B. Izenstein. A second to the motion: Dr. R. Baevsky. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky and Dr. B. Izenstein. A no vote: Dr. R. Rappaport and M. Toye, RN. Not voting: Dr. R. Steingart.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 8:14 PM by Dr. R. Rappaport. A second to adjourn: M. Toye, RN. A yes vote: Dr. R. Baevsky, Dr. B. Izenstein, Dr. R. Rappaport and M. Toye, RN. A no vote: none. Not voting: Dr. R. Steingart.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maripat Toye, MS, RN, Longmeadow BOH