

Board of Health Minutes 4/3/2020 Town of Williamsburg

Emergency Meeting due to Covid 19 by conference call 1-717-275-8940 #7551127

Participants Donna Gibson, chair, Rusty Luce, Helen Symons, (members of BOH)

William Sayre, Selectboard, Michael Cardozo, community member

Meeting called to order at 1001

New Business item Agenda #1 question whether to keep open town recreational areas?

Discussion: Board members noted that the Governor has recommended that all State recreation areas be closed (DPH bulletin issued 4/2/2020) , difficult to monitor proper social distancing of current playgrounds ie tennis courts, complaints received of use by multiple persons not observing social distancing, equipment unable to be properly sanitized.

A motion was made by Helen Symons and seconded by Rusty Luce that Per the Mass DPH directive on 4/2/2020 that all State playground areas be closed, The playgrounds in Williamsburg will be closed to the public until 5/4/2020, these areas include the Ames Field tennis courts in Haydenville, Center School Playground (next to parking area of Town Office building in Haydenville,) Playground at the Helen E. James School and playground at the Anne T Dunphy school in Williamsburg. Motion passed unanimously. This motion is to take effect on April 4, 2020 at noon.

The chair will ask the Town Administrator to post this information on the Town Website, and to convey this electronically to the Selectboard chair, the Recreation chair and the Police Department. The Highway Department will be notified and requested by the TA to cordon off these areas with yellow tape. If the tennis nets are up the board requests that they be taken down. A sign will be placed to notify the public of this decision at each site.

#2 noncompliance of social distancing at restaurants in Williamsburg with Takeout orders

It has been observed that at some restaurants customers were not heeding the social distancing rules. Mark Bushee HA will contact the restaurants and remind them that this is necessary and he is looking into a way to mark the waiting area for proper social distancing.

#3 Possible Use of Red Alert to notify residents of need to be aware of any possible cases of Covid 19 that may be present and for which the State Maven system is unaware.

Donna and Charlene will compose a message to residents that will include the symptoms of Covid 19, ask that residents contact the health agent if they have any suspicions that they may be positive, ensure the public of confidentiality of this information. Some persons may be sick who are at risk of spreading the virus but are unable to get tested, or get medical attention. Some physicians may not be reporting positive cases to the state Maven system. Donna is working on a case that has been reported to her that fits this criteria. Residents will be encouraged to visit the town website with update information re criteria for isolation and quarantine and appropriate times for each.

#4 social distancing is working

Donna emphasized the need to continue social distancing as it appears to be working. She noted that the current reporting is that the virus may last in the air for over 3 hours so it is important to follow the social distancing rules. The use of masks in public was discussed.

Open for public questions:

Michael Cardozo (Florence resident) requested the board keep the tennis court open but conceded that not everyone would be diligent in following the rules so agreed with the Board decision to close the tennis courts.

Discussion re procedure at the Transfer Station re social distancing:

Rusty noted that persons using the TS are following the rules of social distancing. He is recommending to the attendants that wearing a mask is optional. Donna said that the BOH can supply the TS with masks if they are requested. It was noted that the current masks cannot keep a person from contacting the virus. Only N95 masks can do this and they have to be professionally fitted and monitored. They are also difficult to wear for long periods of time.

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It was recommended that TS attendants have their temperatures checked prior to starting their shifts. Donna will instruct Rusty in how to use the equipment. If a TS employee is febrile (temp over 100) they will be asked to leave and contact their health provider.

Rusty noted that TS employees in Northampton are being paid an extra \$3/hr during this difficult period as the job they are doing could be hazardous. Bill Sayer will bring this concern to the attention of the Selectboard.

Bill Sayre complimented the Health Board for their efforts to monitor the effects in Williamsburg of the current Covid pandemic and work to keep the residents safe.

Next meeting to be decided.

Meeting concluded at 1101

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Symons