



BOARD OF HEALTH
MARIANNE HARTMANN, R.N., MPH
STEPHANIE GOODMAN
EMILY CILLEY, R.N.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
JEFFREY W. VAUGHAN

(781) 596-8864
FAX (781) 596-8818

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE
NEIA ILLINGWORTH

Board of Health Meeting Minutes **Wednesday, February 10, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Hartmann, Emily Cilley and Stephanie Goodman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Jeffrey Vaughan, Director of Public Health and Neia Illingworth, Public Health Relations Nurse

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Interface Referral Program

Emily Cilley discussed the Interface Referral Program that the town subscribes to. She is pleased that town officials understand the importance of this invaluable resource that provides services and relief to the residents of Swampscott. This program allows access to mental health services and substance abuse assistance by calling the hotline. When a resident calls the hotline, they will be screened by an intake person who will then assign a therapist who specializes in the disorder you are being afflicted by; within two weeks the resident/student is paired with a specialist who fits their specific needs. This program helps the resident eliminate the leg work of finding a therapist on their own. To her knowledge, there has been about 10 to 12 people who are already utilizing this service, as well as some students from our schools. Marianne inquired as to whether the data stats would be available in the future so that we can monitor participation numbers; Emily will work on getting some numbers together.

NEW BUSINESS COVID-19

Neia Illingworth shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the most recent data received regarding the Town of Swampscott's incidence rate and the breakdown of cases. This data has been posted on the town's website for public viewing.

Neia also discussed the town's progress on the status of the COVID-19 vaccination program. The town is partnering with surrounding communities to administer vaccines to the public in phases. She discussed how the dose distribution works, and that the town cannot be guaranteed that the amount that they order is the amount that they will receive. Because of this uncertainty of availability, we are utilizing Mass regional vaccination sites and other institutions such as CVS and Walgreens. The town does not have the proper refrigeration storage capacity for the vaccine and must meet very particular guidelines to be eligible to receive doses.

Vaughan shared a bulletin posted by the state on Friday, February 5, 2021. The Baker administration announced that it was incorporating a vaccine appointment call center for residents over 75 who are having trouble scheduling an appointment online into the 2-1-1 phone service. The call center will be staffed with over 500 representatives who can provide live phone support to assist residents with booking an appointment. The line will be open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Live call center workers will be available in English and Spanish, also, 100 additional languages will be available through translators. Call center workers will have the same access to appointments that users will see on the public website. This service will not provide additional availability or new appointments not previously available online.

The line can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1 and selecting the prompt for "Help and Scheduling a Vaccine Appointment." Residents may have to wait on the line given expected call volume.

He also mentioned that Gina Bush at the Senior Center has managed to help all seniors requesting assistance in getting an appointment for a vaccine.

Vaughn also asked that the Swampscott Police Department do spot checks on local businesses, making sure that the COVID guidelines are being followed, that employees, managers etc. are properly masked, making sure establishments are not overcrowded and that they are Massachusetts compliant.

Temple Shirat Hayam is also being considered for a secondary emergency vaccine site as it is equipped with substantial space and parking this site could also remain set up through April.

Marianne Hartmann discussed a six-week webinar that the schools will be attending. This program covers COVID testing at schools, parental consent, etc.

Emily Cilley and Stephanie Goodman discussed contact tracing. How the process is time consuming, and the impact it has on individuals and families emotionally, especially for those with auto immune deficiencies and elderly involved.

Marianne mentioned the new strains that are emerging and whether the vaccine covers them. She also mentioned that vaccines are available to anyone who accompanies someone 75 years or older to receive a vaccination at any Mass vaccination site.

Coyote Awareness

Jeff Vaughan mentioned that the next few weeks is coyote mating season and wants to bring awareness to the dangers they pose to residents with small animals. Please see the town website for facts on coyote awareness.

Scheduling of Next Board of Health Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. All Board Members are in agreement.

On MOTION by Marianne and SECONDED by Emily and Stephanie it was VOTED by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Hartmann (yes), Goodman (yes), Cilley (yes).

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

True Attest,



Diane Folan, Administrative Assistant