



Town of Mendon Board of Health Minutes for April 29, 2020

Andy Fiske, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Alan Greenberg -Vice Chairman Tom Fichtner - BOH Member, Missy Kakela-Boisvert, Sr. Administrative Assistant to BOH, Emergency Manager Mark Bucchino, Fire Chief Kessler, Select Person Lawney Tinio, Principal Assessor Jean Berthold.

Location – Conference Call number 774-462-5991 Participates number 1233

COVID-19 – There was long discussion regarding the BOH mandating the wearing of face masks or face coverings. Jean Berthold spoke to her concerns about vendors coming into the Town Hall for services & not having face coverings. In some instances, she has had to be within the recommended six foot social distancing guideline. Lawney spoke to this issue of mandating face coverings and wondered of the legality behind forcing such a guideline.

The Board has received guidance from the CDC, Mass DPH and Governor Baker regarding this issue. They feel these are appropriate recommendations and the Board will follow those recommendations until circumstances warrant any changes. Any resident who would like to wear a mask or face coverings may certainly do so. It was noted that the Board does not want to give residents a false sense of security that wearing a mask would mean they should abandon social distancing. However, individuals should wear face mask or covering when social distancing is not allowed. At this time, the BOH will not be requiring the wearing of face masks or covering. Many people can have COVID-19 and show no signs or symptoms. Social distancing is important. However, Lawney stated that he will bring this up at the next Select Board meeting & recommend making face coverings a requirement when social distancing cannot be followed, as a function of doing business within the Town Hall.

The Board then talked about a location for a drive-thru for an Emergency Dispensing Site. They looked for input from Fire Chief Kessler and Emergency Management Director Mark Bucchino. They both agreed to use Miscoe Hill School, as it is already our regular EDS (Emergency Dispensing Site). They commented that residents are very familiar with this location as it is where voting and Town Meeting take place. The Board agreed. They will use Miscoe School for both styles of EDS.

Next, the topic of dog groomers was brought up to the Board. Lawney presented the concept that if a dog groomer can show they can conform their business to incorporate social distancing and use of proper PPE, then that the Board could allow them to operate even though this business is not on the State's list of "Essential Services" The Board is not aware of being able to provide

that allowance but if so they would look at this as an option. Lawney is going to do some more research & provide the Board some follow up documentation to review. In addition, he will consult with Town Counsel as well

Lawney also brought up the Mendon Drive-In & George's Surf & Turf. In discussing these venues, the concept of eating in one's vehicle was discussed. Although the Governor's Emergency Order states that "On-premise consumption of food & beverage is prohibited", there were questions as to whether this really applied to eating in a car or eating within the brick & mortar establishment. Lawney will be making further inquiries & try to get verification of whether or not folks could simply eat in their vehicle in a parking lot, as this would reasonably not be in conflict with social distancing guidelines.

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Next meeting will be May 6, 2020

Approved may 20, 2020