

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
20 Sanderson St.
Greenfield, MA 01301

June 11th 2020

Present: Kelly Dixon (Chair), Jennifer Hoffman, Dr. William Doyle

Health Dept- Valerie Bird, (Nicole Glabach & Timothy Newton not present)

Other Guests: Kara and Dave (YMCA), Heidi Gebo (Stoneleigh Burnham), Christy Moore (Greenfield Rec), Kelly Jenkins (Greenfield Rec); Joe Mignault and Tina Crocker (Franklin County Babe Ruth); Nancee Bershoff, MD

Meeting Opened 10:07 am

Kelly Dixon opened the meeting, performed roll call and chairs statement.

BOH (KD)- unable to review June 4th minutes- Nicole unable to make changes requested by Chair; Chair to make recommended changes and send to other members of the Board. Once approved, the Chair will forward to Nicole for uploading to the website.

Softball & Baseball Leagues (contact sports)-

BOH- floor turned over to Joe & Tina to review their thoughts on leagues during the covid pandemic.

Tina- called in to receive determination of guidelines for contact sports and leagues for softball/baseball. States that “kids need an outlet and we mostly want to do skills and drills safely.” Our group works with ages 12-15 and we would ensure they wear masks and socially distance during practices.

Joe- we have looked at the guidance and baseball is listed as a contact sport. We have been invited by a league to meet Friday night and discuss organization of teams and registration. It sounds like they have a start up date listed on their site and have already taken registrations.

BOH (JH)- Do you know specifically what leagues are trying to meet/start up?

Joe- I may attend and do not want to get anyone into trouble on this.

BOH (WD)- assured that no one would get into trouble but no other leagues are present today or have forwarded any plans to the BOH.

Joe- the meeting on Friday is with the Greenfield Minor League.

BOH (JH)- we appreciate your time and work with the youth and the time you have dedicated to them but this is our first time dealing with a pandemic.

Joe- yes, I have worked with the youth here for 31 years and we are trying to be as prepared for it as we can be but safety is our ultimate priority. We have the Abercrombie field that we maintain as part of the summer and fall programs, which last through October and we really want to do things the right way for ~70-80 youth and safety is paramount. Would we still need to maintain the field?

Christy- thank you Joe & Tina for reaching out to the BOH at this time. Yes we would want you to still maintain the field during this time, especially if any changes are made to the reopening of activities in phase III.

Tina- we were thinking of practices only, no registration. If we do not practice or have clinics now and we stay on track for opening phase III, won't the kids be behind track?

BOH (JH)- as a Board, we ultimately need to keep the kids safe and they will "bounce back quickly I am sure."

BOH (WD)- I would like Valerie Bird, Health Department Director to make a statement and for the Board to vote on it.

Valerie- I do not think it is safe for kids to practice right now.

BOH (KD)- do I have a motion on the table?

BOH (JH)- I make a motion to suspend softball, baseball, and all contact sports during phase II with re-evaluation prior to phase III- this suspension includes practices, gatherings, etc related to organized, contact sports. Motion made by member Jennifer Hoffman. Motion seconded by member Dr. Doyle.

BOH (KD)- Board unanimously voted and agreed on motion. BOH requested email addresses and will forward the next meeting webex information to the group.

Valerie- Tentative meeting date proposed by Valerie as July 2nd as it is ~5 days prior to possible phase III re-opening. BOH and attendees all agreed on the date, time tentatively scheduled for 10:30 am.

Joe- asked again if it was OK to maintain the fields during phase II.

BOH (KD)- yes please and again thank you for your time & commitment to our youth.

BOH (KD)- in the interest of attendees, do we want to skip down to Old Business and discuss recreation camps next?

Valerie- yes, I think we should.

Recreational Camps & Programs

YMCA (Kara)- report that they met with their Board of Directors and Finance Committee in the last week and the YMCA has decided that they are going to close all indoor camps and programs as well as Camp Apex for the summer of 2020.

Valerie- are you having swim camp? I ask because we received notice from the Building Department that the Mechanical Ventilation system still needs a permit.

YMCA- we are not having swim camp and I am not sure about that.

Valerie- ok, I will talk to someone at the YMCA about it.

YMCA (Kara)- I believe the company that maintains the system is scheduled to come back out soon, they were closed initially during the pandemic.

Christy- also reports that she and Kara and representatives from the School Department have been in frequent communications in the last week and decided that "if one ship was down, the

other would be as well” and so the Greenfield Recreation Department has also decided not to proceed with providing recreational camps or programs this summer. We will also consider keeping emergency childcare open past the June 29th date, possibly for a few weeks afterwards.

Valerie- where will you be providing this?

Christy- we will continue at the same place.

Christy- due to the school preparation for the fall, current maintenance plans, and the decision of the YMCA we are in agreement with the YMCAs decision. Our plan is to first notify the staff, then the families, and then publish the decision on social media platforms.

BOH (KD)- is there a motion on the table to support these camps?

BOH (JH)- motion made to support the decision of the Recreation Department, YMCA, and all other local camps in Greenfield to suspend camps and related programs for the Summer 2020 season. Motion made by member Jennifer Hoffman. Motion seconded by member Dr. Doyle.

BOH- Board unanimously voted and agreed on motion.

YMCA- we will plan to do the same release process of the decision today as the Recreation Department. We may also opt to do a press release with the Recorder.

BOH (KD)- do you want the BOH to release something in writing to support this decision?

YMCA- yes a statement that could be added to the release would be great.

Christy- we do not necessarily need one.

Board of Health/Health Department Updates

BOH (KD)- we will proceed to going back to New Business and Health Department updates if there are no further comments or questions. Valerie, are you on the call still?

Valerie- yes, as far as updates, we mostly deal with a lot of complaints right now with housing and people not wearing their masks. I sent you all individually the daily log that we complete.

Just a reminder that you can only reply to one person, a "reply all" is considered discussion and violates open meeting law.

BOH (KD)- agreed but the Board would like some awareness on when emails are sent to each individual as this is not documented. If there is nothing noted, it is unclear who has received it.

There have been recent emails sent where only one or two members were notified by the Health Department or someone in the Community about plans or questions and we have a 3 member Board.

BOH (WD)- I have reviewed the logs, the restaurant inspections seem to be going OK so far?

Valerie- yes, we mostly just receive complaints about the people using the facility, not about the employees. Sometimes we do not get complaints for several days. For example, on Monday we received a call from something that happened on Friday. We do address all complaints and as soon as we can.

BOH (WD)- I see we had a case of campylobacter, was this confirmed?

Valerie- yes it was confirmed. Brief update provided to BOH members.

Valerie- we also had another interesting case of HGA, a tick borne illness. Brief update provided to BOH members.

BOH (KD)- any updates on menthol tobacco compliance? Is Tim still overseeing these?

Valerie- yes, Tim is overseeing compliance. We do have the Pioneer Valley Compliance group but they have not been going out because of the pandemic. We did have some places trying to sell Zyn, which has menthol in it.

BOH (KD)- going back to restaurants, any issues with outdoor seating and restaurants?

Valerie- no we have had several restaurants open up and there have been no issues. Well, the 99 needed to wait on an alcohol permit but they were meeting with the licensing board on Wednesday. We have also worked with Mesa Verde and Terraza's.

Valerie- housing is a nightmare for us right now. 4 Armory Street with overall conditions in 2 of the apartments we went into; unpermitted, dangerous work in the basement which I sent to all of

you. 44 Woodleigh has been condemned. There are 2 apartments and they need a property manager to help, otherwise they end up with squatters. We also went out to 20 Elm Street this week with complaints of squatters.

BOH (WD)- going back to the club (Greenfield Country Club), isn't there a new system at the club? How come there are issues?

Valerie- the system is actually 8 years old and it was not designed for its current use, especially in the summertime. They need to inspect and pump the grease tank more than every 5 years- they should be doing it monthly, at least in the summer months. We provided them with recommendations and a plan to do this.

Valerie- did you have a chance to review the Drive in plan?

BOH- 2 members did not receive the plan. Chair (KD) opened license application and read the information submitted to her via email.

Christy- I was not aware of the plan, I know when we tried to do a movie in the park we could not because it violated a 50 mile distance requirement from a real Drive in.

Valerie- will follow-up with Lori K in licensing about our concerns. Have we ever seen an application before? Not sure the Board needs to vote on anything but just wanted to make sure they were aware. I will forward the plan to Jennifer Hoffman and Bill Doyle right now.

Christy- I will also follow-up with Lori K on this.

BOH (KD)- direct question to Nancee Bershoff on whether she has been able to meet in front of the 2 Committees in order to proceed with her appointment? Chair (KD) noted her process 2 years ago when appointed and has asked for an update from Dani Letourneau, Chief of Staff for the Mayor, and has not received any response yet.

Nancee- I have not heard anything yet either. I did submit my CV and a letter a while back and I feel like I have been "flying in the wind." I would like to maybe sit down with Valerie and the BOH.

Valerie- I recommend you follow-up directly with Dani about the appointment.

Nancee- I am gone a portion of next week but otherwise available all summer. Maybe I can call and schedule some time with Valerie and Dr. Doyle whom I have known a long time.

BOH (KD)- that sounds great, please feel free to reach out to Jennifer Hoffman and Kelly Dixon as well.

BOH (KD)- it is currently 11:25 am, do I have a motion to adjourn?

BOH- motion made by Jennifer Hoffman, seconded by Dr. Doyle.