

Town of Nahant, MA
Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 1, 2020 6:00 PM
Richard J. Lombard, Chairman
Mark P. Cullinan, Vice Chairman
Joshua A. Antrim, Recording Secretary
Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator (TA)

The Board of Selectmen acting as the Board of Health will be hosting a virtual Town Hall meeting to discuss developing changes and actions taken regarding Coronavirus. The Town Administrator, Public Health Nurse, Public Health Officer and other Town officials will be participating in this meeting.

1. Meeting Opening 6:00 pm
Opening Comments

Mr. Lombard made a motion to open the meeting
Seconded by Mr. Antrim
Josh Antrim-I
Mark Cullinan-I
Richie Lombard-I
Unanimous vote in favor

The Board of Health started the meeting-
Each board member and Town Administrator thanked everyone involved with coming together, stepping up and helping navigate with this new norm.

TA March 10th Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency related to the Coronavirus.
March 12th he issues an Emergency Order. On March 12th the Board of Health hosted a mandatory Department Head meeting. He would like to allow for Town Officials to talk a bit about things that they have adjusted within their respective departments.

Health Nurse, Deb Murphy- Conference calls with DPH twice a week. The statistics we have in our Town show that we are very lucky with overall numbers. She spoke about the process she takes when she is informed of a positive case.

Health Officer, John Coulon- Aside from assisting the Health Nurse with tracking our work does not stop. Monitoring for things outside of Coronavirus still goes on. His work with food establishments, mosquito control has begun, rats, trash complaints, etc. The bulk of our attention is going to Covid-19, but we are still continuing other things within their department.

TA The Governor's does not require for establishments to stay open. It's the company's choice to stay open. The current order is 10 or less people in the establishment at one given time. Businesses in Town have scaled that number down to 5 people or less.

Chief of Police, Robert Dwyer- Been reaching out to surrounding communities in case numbers of officers goes down. We are keeping the cruisers and area as clean as possible. We are trying to

keep things sterile as possible. We are still dealing with police issues and going into people's homes. We will not be going to the house for minor things. We will triage these calls with as much information as possible.

TA Question in the group chat came up: residents that may see people in groups on property. We are asking residents to reach out to the non-emergency Covid hotline 781.771.2121. If it is an emergency, dial 911 or call the police or fire station.

We understand that the State will be closing the causeway parking lot (sometime this week). The police department will be enforcing resident parking stickers. Please visit nahant.org and click on the link to purchase your parking sticker.

Fire Chief Palombo- Very thankful for all of the donations. Box outside of the fire station where you can leave those donations. Reached out to surrounding communities regarding mutual aid should their numbers of firefighters go down.

Dennis Ball; Emergency Management- Thanked everyone for participating. Thanked Tony for his leadership and forward thinking. There is a dedicated Covid-19 website and Covid-19 non-emergency local hotline. They are in constant contact with MEMA. We are expecting a delivery for PPE equipment from MEMA.

Schools Superintendent; Tony Pierantozzi- Schools are closed until at least May 4, 2020. Staff has been preparing for remote learning. Starting Monday April 6th we will be having a school lunch pick up made available. Details are on the school website. No cash or checks – electronic payment only. Playgrounds are closed. Fields are open as long as people keep physical distance. The school has Chrome books- any member of the Johnson School community needing access to a chrome book can contact the school to lend out one.

Council on Aging; Director Linda Peterson- Thanked the entire team, especially Tony for his leadership. Her team has put together a safe program for their seniors. 25 meals are being prepared and delivered to 25 seniors, daily (Mon-Thurs). On the weekends Captains Seaside is feeding our seniors on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (for free). Very generous. Well-ness checks are taking place in the Council on Aging as well. This is a daily call to our seniors. Ann Callahan has gone above and beyond for our Town and our seniors. Thank you, thank you!

TA Public buildings are closed until May4th. Public playgrounds and parking lots are closed. Our open spaces are open for passive recreation only. To reiterate our message; the way we will battle this virus starts with ourselves. Stay home, when outside-stay on property. When off property-keep distance. Ultimately, it comes down to the individual. The actions that you take could have a benefit on someone else's life.

Board of Health/Board of Selectmen:

Josh Antrim- thank you to the entire Town, employees and volunteers. Thank you especially Linda and Ann for keeping our older folks connected and for providing that valuable service.

Richard Lombard- echoed Josh's comments. Thank you everyone!

Mark Cullinan- Echoed Josh and Richie's comments. Tony is doing an excellent job. Everyone stay safe.

Librarian Sharon Hawkes- the Library is going to stay closed to the public until at least May 4th. “Like” the library on Facebook or email nahant.circ@gmail.com if you need help accessing ebooks, music, movies or anything else.

2. Citizen’s Forum

Jennifer McCarthy- How many people in Town have tested positive and how many presumptive cases do we have in Town?

Deb Murphy- Total number of positive cases that we had is (2). “Presumptive” has gone away. Now they have given all our state labs permission to result the tests, they did away with presumptive. All the tests are either negative or positive.

TA- The other question was about Town election and Town meeting. The agenda for tomorrow’s BoS meeting lists a vote to postpone Town election to June 20th. Legislation has passed at the state level allowing municipalities to postpone elections until June 30th.

Town Council Dan Skrip – regarding Town Meeting: we have the ability to move Town meeting until June 30th by a simple vote by the BoS. If the pandemic requires a date beyond June 30th we are waiting for legislation.

TA – We got approval from DLS to create Covid 19 accounts. We are tracking all costs associated with Covid-19 expenses. We are hoping that we will be reimbursed in the future. This tracking was implemented from the beginning of this pandemic.

Another question from the chat (Sandy from the Country Club)- wanted to know if the platform courts at the Country Club should be closed. TA’s recommendation is yes. He will reach out to the Country Club tomorrow to reiterate.

Tony Pierantozzi - there is a new Food Pantry in Swampscott now available to Nahant residents. Easiest way to contact them is through Facebook; Anchor Food Pantry for more details.

Mr. Cullinan made a motion to adjourn

Mr. Lombard seconded

Unanimous vote in favor

Meeting adjourned 7:18pm

Meeting Minutes prepared by Bobbie-Jo Blair, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the _____ day of _____ 2020.

Board of Selectmen