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NORTH READING, MA

Town of North Reading
Massachusetts

Board of Health

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2020
Teleconference/ Virtual**

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Pamela Vath
Karen Martin

Others Present:

Robert Bracey, Health Agent North Reading
Mary Samost
Maureen Doherty

Lauren Gulbicki
Amy DiChiara

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting

Minutes

Minutes to be reviewed at a future meeting.

Public Comment

Maureen Doherty has offered 25-30 inches in the North Reading Transcript to cover a topic of the month. The topic that was suggested for this month was an interview with the Public Health Nurse.

Health Department Announcements

None

Community Health Liaison Report

None

Community Impact Team Report

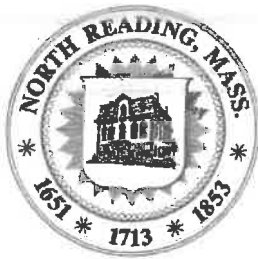
None

New Business:

COVID-19

Pam Vath, Public Health Nurse, reports that current cases of COVID-19 in North Reading include 132 confirmed residents and 63 patients at or associated with Royal Meadow View, 171 cases have recovered and the Health Department continues to monitor 10 cases. There have been 14 confirmed cases including 12 at or associated with Royal Meadow View, and 1 suspected case of North Reading citizens that are deceased.

Royal Meadowview update: Royal Meadow has had three reviews from Special Infection Control review panel. They have been consistently meeting their criteria. They also continue to meet on a weekly basis with Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Public Health Nurse Pam



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Vath. In these meetings, there is a review of statistics, staffing, and patients. Royal Meadowview is reporting weekly on projected staffing patterns, and reported that they received appropriate numbers of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Guidelines have been reviewed regarding visitation of family at long term care facilities. Royal Meadowview has drafted a proposal for how they will handle incorporating family visits at their location. The proposal will be reviewed by the Board of Health and further discussed at the next Board of Health meeting on 6/11/2020. Royal Meadowview has also requested that the Board of Health review allowing admissions to occur at the facility again. In the effort to prevent any additional or further spread of COVID-19, the Board of Health discussed potential limitations to be included and followed in regards to admission to the facility.

Mr. Bracey reports that currently the Health Department is working with the local businesses in order to meet Phase 1 and prepare for Phase 2 openings. In addition, the Health Department is working on the following:

- Working with the Director of Public safety, Fire Chief and Town Administrator in order to reopen municipal building, as well as, prepare for Town Meeting dates.
- Continue working with Town and School officials regarding graduation.
- Guide businesses in Phase 1
- Phase 2 guidance was distributed to schools and Parks and Recreation.
- Phase 2 guidance is being distributed to the local restaurants
- Review guidance regarding the opening of pools
- Review and prepare letter to be sent to all tobacco establishments regarding new tobacco regulation that went into effect June 1, 2020
- Title V
- Working with Human Resources and Director of Public Safety regarding the Public Health Nurse position. At this time, the Town is planning to post the position as a 16 hour a week position.
- Website continues to be updated with the latest information and can be found here: <https://www.northreadingma.gov/health-department/webforms/covid-19-coronavirus-information>
- At this time there will be no cuts to the Health Budget.

The Public Health Nurse position was further discussed in regards to the number of hours that the board feels it should be advertised for. During the time that Pam has been in this position she has seen a need to increase the hours based on the various initiatives that can and should be happening with in the community. There are many ways that the Public Health Nurse could be more involved with community initiatives such as with Healthy Heart and Stop the Bleed. Additionally through-out the year there are many opportunities to educate the community with regards to prevention and treatment. Such opportunities include but are not limited to Flu vaccination, tick and mosquito season as well as the potential for a resurgence of COVID-19.



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Karen Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm

Motion seconded by Pam Vath

All members voted unanimously in favor.

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Gary Hunt

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Pamela Vath

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Karen Martin