



TOWN OF NORTH READING
Massachusetts

Board of Health

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2021
Teleconference/Virtual**

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Karen Martin
Pamela Vath

Others Present:

Robert Bracey, Health Agent
Donna Hovey

Stephanie Connolly
Steven O'Leary

RECEIVED
BARBARA STATS
2021 APR 20 PM 1:49
TOWN CLERK
NORTH READING, MA

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

Minutes

Previous minutes from 2/17/2021 have been approved and posted to the website.
Minutes from 2/22/2021 currently being reviewed.

Public Comment:

New Business:

Public Health Nurse:

As of 3/18/2021, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has notified the Town of North Reading of 1109 cases of COVID-19 in North Reading. 1011 cases have recovered, and the Health Department continues to monitor 62 cases. 36 patients between town residents and Royal Meadowview Nursing Center are deceased.

Donna Hovey Public Health Nurse is reviewing death certificates as well as reaching out to the State to better gain understanding of these numbers and the method of reporting.

Royal Meadowview Nursing Center

The Health Department received a call this afternoon regarding a returning patient. The patient had one negative COVID test. The patient was out of the facility for less than 24 hours. The Board was able to discuss this case and allowed this person back into Royal Meadowview

235 North Street, North Reading, MA 01864

Tel: 978.357.5242 Fax: 978.664.1713 Web: www.northreadingma.gov



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following the protocol of quarantine. Currently the Board of Health has an Order in effect for Royal Meadowview Nursing Center, this Order was placed in April of 2020. The Board as a whole agreed that the changes could be made to the Order but that the Order would remain in effect. To date the Order has served Royal Meadow View and the community well. Mr. O'Leary pointed out that this type of procedure is also being done in other facilities.

Pam Vath Motioned to revise the Order of the Board of Health from April 2020 directing all long term care Facilities and Nursing Homes. Regarding the acceptance of an admission that would introduce an exception to that Order with the following conditions

- 1. The timeframe that a patient is offsite for medical treatment is no longer than 36 hours**
- 2. The testing requirement will be reduced to one negative PCR test**
- 3. A Binax test be initiated upon arrival back into Royal Meadowview Nursing Center.**
- 4. Continue the expectation of contact with the Board of Health for each of these occurrence that do not include two negatives.**

Motion seconded by Gary Hunt

All members voted unanimously in favor.

The Order Amendment 1 dated June 11, 2020 regarding any new residents/patients form any hospital, Massachusetts licensed long term care facility or their home remains in effect.

Healthy Hornet Facebook

Regular posts have been made to the site and will continue. As each phase of vaccine becomes available Karen or John plans to post regarding that information. Karen and John have also been working with a team to develop topics to post about. One of the ideas is to talk with the Council on Aging and see about a newsletter to seniors. To date there is a fair amount of traffic on the page and great feedback.

Martin Fair Memorial

Karen presented the Board with some pictures of preassembled play structures. The Board has agreed that a preassembled structure would be ideal. Karen is going to put together a PowerPoint to show at the next meeting. Some remaining questions for further discussion include the age the structure would be designed for and location.

Health Department Budget

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Mr. Bracey made his budget presentation to the Select Board. Mr. Bracey went over the noticeable achievements from the past year, the response to COVID, Title V as well as all Inspections. Mr. O'Leary expressed his thanks to the Board on how wonderfully they responded to the Pandemic.

COVID Vaccine Clinics

The Health Department has hosted 18 Vaccine clinics and have about 4 more to be held for the second doses. At this time it remains that North Reading is not getting any more doses of vaccine. Mr. Bracey is talking with the Housing Authority as well as DPH to see if we can have a clinic for the residents at Peabody Court.

Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for 4/13/2021 @ 7pm.

Karen Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm.

Motion seconded by Pam Vath.

All members voted unanimously in favor.

Gary Hunt

Gary Hunt

Pamela Vath

Pamela Vath

Karen Martin

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