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**Town of North Reading**  
*Massachusetts*

TOWN CLERK  
NORTH READING, MA

**Board of Health**

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2020  
Teleconference/Virtual**

**Members Present:** Gary Hunt, Chairman  
Karen Martin  
Pamela Vath

**Others Present:** Robert Bracey, Health Agent North Reading  
Amy DiChiara  
John Murphy  
Michael Gilleberto-Town Administrator

Stephanie Connolly  
Abigail Hurlbut  
Lauren Gulbicki

**7:00 PM**

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

**Minutes**

Approval of minutes: Members reviewed and approved minutes as written for 6/30/2020  
All minutes have been posted to the Board of Health and Health Department website.

**New Business:**

**Special Town Meeting:**

The Special Town Meeting originally set for May 11, 2020 has since been postponed three different times. The proposed date of the meeting is now set for Saturday August 8, 2020 at 9:00 am. Due to the anticipated large number of attendees the meeting will be held outdoors at the North Reading turf field. There will not be assigned seating, but individuals will be guided to socially distanced seating. Facial coverings may only be removed at the meeting when asked upon to speak. It has been recommended that facial coverings will be mandatory, and there will be a designated seating area for those with medical conditions who are unable to wear a mask/facial covering.



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**Board of Health**

**Gary Hunt motioned** to recommend to the town moderator that the Special Town Meeting scheduled for May 11, 2020, continued, to June 8, 2020, and furthered continued to June 29, 2020 and further continued to July 27, 2020 to be further continued to August 8, 2020 at 9:00 am at 189 Park St. North Reading.

**Motion seconded by Karen Martin.**

**All members voted unanimously in favor.**

**COVID-19:**

Pam Vath, Public Health Nurse, reports that in town there have been 203 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19; 140 from the community and 63 at or associated with the Royal Meadow View Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Of those 203 cases 181 have recovered, 130 individuals from the community and 51 from Royal Meadow View. The Health Department is currently monitoring 8 active cases. There has been a total of 14 deaths, 12 of these were confirmed COVID-19 cases at or associated with the Meadow View Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Amongst North Reading residents, there has been one death from a confirmed case and one death from a suspected case.

The Royal Meadow View has admitted two new patients. With recent testing, all staff of the facility were found to be negative. Royal Meadow View has requested that newly admitted patients live in a separate wing with separate staff for the duration of their 14-day quarantine period. This region of the building will have a designated entrance and exit for these staff members.

This past week there have also been two cases of Lyme disease reported.

**Tobacco Violation:**

Mr. Patel has since requested an extension of two weeks from July 16, 2020 to come before the Board of Health. This violation of Massachusetts tobacco regulations involved selling nicotine products above the 3% legal limit. Additionally, sales tax was not charged on the product being sold. The hearing is now set for July 29, 2020 at 7:00 pm.



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**Board of Health**

**High School Graduation:**

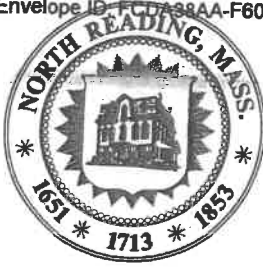
The high school graduation ceremony will take place Friday July 24, 2020 at the high school turf. The ceremony has been arranged in accordance with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines. Over 750 people have registered to attend. Seating will be organized in a grid format by family with social distancing. It has been recommended that these seating clusters be no larger than six people based on current state mandatory standards for restaurants. It has been stated that masks will be required in order to attend the event, regardless of medical conditions. Concern was raised about this policy, as it may be in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A separate seating area should be arranged for individuals who are unable to wear a facial covering. Attendants should be guided to proceed directly to their seats. There should be no communal gatherings before, during, or after the ceremony. Additionally, questions were raised about whether a rehearsal would take place prior to the ceremony date.

**School Reopening**

The next meeting for the School Reopening Committee will take place on Monday July 20, 2020. During this meeting they will review the survey results and draft plans for in person, hybrid, and remote learning. On the evening of July 20, there will be a School Committee meeting to review reopening plans. These plans must be submitted by July 31, 2020 to the state. It has been suggested that the Board of Health may assist in a walk-through of the schools. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has released guidance for when staff or students test positive. Concerns were raised about the isolation space for children with COVID-19 symptoms and how these will be staffed. There is also concern about how the schools will navigate connecting with families who are uncomfortable with sending children back to school. As of now, the North Reading school system will follow the regular school calendar with a start date of September 7, 2020.

**Business Reopening**

In accordance with reopening guidelines, a verbal warning was issued to Kitty's Restaurant in regards to the spacing of tables and facial coverings.



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**Board of Health**

**Public Health Nurse Position**

An agreement has been made that the new Public Health Nurse position will be for a minimum of 24 hours a week and will include benefits. The position will be posted within the next few days. A separate nursing position will be posted through the School Department for a 16-hour position.

**Subcommittee Update**


Karen Martin will continue to be involved in the school reopening process.

The next BOH meeting will be held Wednesday July 29, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

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

**Motion seconded by Gary Hunt.**

**All members voted unanimously in favor.**

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Gary Hunt

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Pamela Vath

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Karen Martin