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NORTH READING, MA

Town of North Reading
Massachusetts

Board of Health

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2020
North Reading Town Hall, Room 14**

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Pamela Vath
Karen Martin

Others Present: Robert Bracey, Health Agent North Reading
Mary Samost
Gregg Carbo, KP Law

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting

Minutes

January minutes to be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting.

Public Comment

Andy Shultz: A member of the Select Board offers to support the Health Department as it pertains to increased wait times for other matters such as septic during this time as the Health Department is working with COVID-19.

Health Department Announcements

Mr. Bracey is in contact with Mark Fine from Metropolitan Area Planning Counsel regarding additional funds for necessary supplies.

Community Health Liaison Report

None

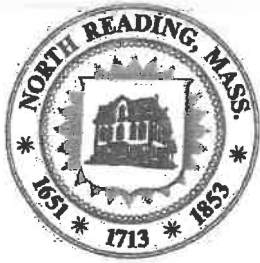
Community Impact Team Report

None

New Business:

COVID-19

Mr. Bracey gave an update on the National numbers of cases 11,355 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States. 171 cases have resulted in death. In Massachusetts there are 328 cases with 119 cases being in Middlesex County. 151 Cases remain under investigation. As of this time there have been no reported deaths in Massachusetts. These numbers are as of 3/19/2020 @4pm.



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Globally there are 239,774 thousand cases. 10,000 cases have resulted in death. With China, Italy and Spain being the most affected.

Pamela Vath, Public Health Nurse reports currently North Reading has one (1) presumptive positive case. Testing for this individual was done at the State Lab, with results being sent to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for confirmation of results. This took 96 hours for the test results to be delivered to the patient. The patient should remain in isolation for fourteen (14) days, ideally from everyone including family. A close contact is defined as any persons within six (6) feet for 15 minutes of the tested positive person. At this time Pam has been in contact with local hospitals regarding testing facilities. This remains a struggle as many do not have the needed personal protective equipment (PPE) and/or testing supplies. Many Providers are recommending that people self-isolate for the required time if feeling symptomatic, due to lack of testing. Mary Samost reports that both Union Hospital and Salem hospital are doing testing with a Doctor's Order. Governor Baker has called in the National Guard at this time.

Declaration of Emergency

KP Law Gregg advised that making a Declaration of Emergency would help North Reading to obtain funds. This document was read aloud and was edited to remove the Select Board from the document.

Pam motioned to vote on the Declaration of Emergency as outlined before the Board, with change as discussed to be reflected.

Motion second by Karen

All members voted unanimously in favor motion carried

Document was revised and reviewed by Mr. Hunt, and represented to the Board.

Karen Martin motioned to accept

Motion seconded by Pam Vath

All members voted unanimously in favor motion carried

Gary Hunt motioned to rescind the original vote regarding the Declaration of Emergency

Motion second by Pam Vath

All members voted unanimously in favor motion carried



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Emergency Declaration Due to Public Health and Safety

This order is to ensure the Governor's order of Social Distancing. The Declaration would include closing such places that cannot ensure the six (6) foot apart recommendation. These places would include but not limited to nail salons, hair salons, etc. Retail establishments that do stay open would need to ensure that they can meet the six (6) feet apart recommendation. Document was revised and reviewed by the Board. Emergency Declaration Due to Public Health and Safety is to be effective Monday March 23, 2020.

Pam Vath Motion to accept Emergency Declaration Due to Public Health and Safety as written

Motion Second by Karen Martin

All members voted unanimously in favor motion carried

Discussion regarding how to proceed with this forum and Open Meeting Law.

Executive Session – for the purposed of discussing a specific case.

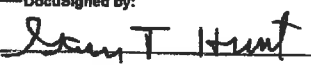
Public Hearing- remain open

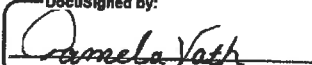
Currently- Open Meeting Laws have been relaxed so that teleconference/virtual can be used. Public can observe what is being done, the public does not have to participate. Emergency decisions can be made if required without posting a meeting in the required 48 hours. This is done by have the members of the Board via phone to discuss, vote and carried out said vote. A meeting would need to be held at a later date to ratify the decisions made. Weekly meetings will be held via teleconference/virtual platform at this time. Agenda will be COVID-19 updates. Meeting will be held Thursday's at seven (7) pm.

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

Motion seconded by Gary Hunt

All members voted unanimously in favor.

DocuSigned by:

516423956 Gary T. Hunt

DocuSigned by:

6A9AF14FEB414 Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:

1920A173D4764 Karen Martin