**DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH**

**COVID-19 MEETING MINUTES**

**April 1, 2020**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nancy Baker, Assistant Town Manager

Leanne Jasset, B.S.P., RPH Chairperson

Mary Ellard, RN., Member

Bridget Sweet, Interim Health Director

**Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM**

**5:30 Board of Health COVID-19 update**

The Board of health held a board meeting on Wednesday April 1, 2020 to update Dedham residents on state and local preparedness efforts and impacts related to COVID-19 (commonly referred to as Coronavirus).

In addition to those in attendance, the following people were on the call:

* Kathy Reda – RN., BSN Vice Chairperson
* Fior Griffin – Administrative Assistant
* Heather Crowley – Resident
* Maria Antinuchio – Resident
* Andrew - Resident

Interim Health Director: Bridget Sweet

Thank you to Jessica Tracy for contacting patients and working with school nurses who

Also thank you to the office staff for their work and cooperation during this time to continue to provide all essential services. The Health Department is still reaching out to restaurants and performing housing and inspection duties as needed.

Members of the Health Department and the Board of Health, distributed information to restaurants regarding social distancing, what it is and what it should look like. They also provided resources and guidance to help them keep take-out food services efficient and safe. The Health department continues to be a resource to the local community.

Data is changing quickly so we are working hard to keep all information up to date.

The Health departments receives updates biweekly, Tuesdays and Fridays, from the DPH. As well as National and local Region (Region 4A+B) calls on Wednesdays.

We have received grant funding from Massachusetts Health Officers Association. The first round of funding came out this week and we plan to use the funds for some of the wrap around services as well as gloves, hand sanitizer and other products needed to provide our essential services to the community. A new list of what is classified as essential and non-essential services has been released by the Governor. There have been some changes such as, landscapers have been classified as essential workers. They can call the office with questions or check the Mass.gov website.

The Health Department is asking the public to continue to follow social distancing guidelines and proper handwashing techniques and we believe that we will continue to slow the spread of the disease.

Chairperson Jasset thanked the Health department for the work they are doing.

Regarding the reporting of positive cases. Recommendation from the DPH that they report county numbers only and not on the town level. Reason being that some towns are so small that people have been able to figure out who has tested positive and the patients have been bullied and harassed. The Board of Health discussed and decided that they will continue to report town-wide confirmed positive cases one time per week. The Board feels that continuing to provide the public with the number of cases in Dedham on a weekly basis will encourage the public to continue to social distance and follow proper handwashing and other hygiene guidelines. They feel it will help people to take the problem more seriously. If it is not working and it causes a problem, then the board will revisit the issue. Kathy Reda motions that the Board of Health release confirmed cases in the Town of Dedham on a weekly basis; this will occur on Wednesday evenings at the weekly Board of Health meeting. Mary Ellard seconds the motion. Roll call vote: Kathy Reda, Yes. Mary Ellard, Yes, Leanne Jasset, Yes.

The number of confirmed positive cases in Dedham as of Wednesday April 1,2020 is 36. Three of those cases are recovered, having no symptoms and no longer in quarantine or isolation.

They anticipate the number of positive cases to increase as more people meet the criteria to be tested. Interim Director Sweet added that during the DPH call, it was stated that people that do not qualify for testing but have the symptoms can now be clinically diagnosed. This clinical testing will also drive the number up.

On Tuesday March 31, 2020. Governor Baker extended the shelter in place, closing non-essential business, schools, playgrounds, etc. until May 4th. Mary Ellard motions that the Board of Health, in accordance with the Governor’s executive order on March 31, 2020, votes to extend the shelter in place and continued closure of non-essential businesses, parks, playgrounds, fields, basketball courts and baseball diamonds until at least May 4th in the Town of Dedham. Kathy Reda seconds the motion. Roll call vote: Mary Ellard, Yes. Kathy Reda, Yes. Leanne Jasset, Yes.

The Board thanks the community for doing their part to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus.

Mary Ellard motions to adjourn the meeting at 6:32pm. Kathy Reda seconds that motion. Roll Call vote: Mary Ellard, Yes. Kathy Reda, Yes. Leanne Jasset, Yes. Meeting Adjourned.