



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dilip Jain, Glenn French, Swati Sane and Theresa Capobianco

Town: Casey Mellin - Health Agent, David Parenti - Fire Chief

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 via Zoom Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Glenn French.

6:01 - Health Agent Update

Casey Mellin shared some of the current numbers of cases in Northborough as well as in the state. The updated numbers are being shared on the town website. Mr. Mellin spoke about the COVID-19 tracking system. Mr. Mellin also spoke about how our Town Nurse, Ann Labonte has been tirelessly working to track and follow up with all of the positive COVID-19 cases in Northborough.

Mr. Mellin and Chief Parenti discussed the task force that has been meeting regularly to prepare the town for the current health crisis. Mr. Mellin mentioned how he has been visiting the businesses in town that have been deemed essential and reminding them of precautions they should be following. Mr. Mellin has been regularly visiting the grocery stores in town and has witnessed social distancing measures being taken by those businesses. Mr. Mellin feels the businesses and most of the patrons are doing a good job practicing safe social distancing.

Mr. Mellin shared the fact that the Governor has released \$16,000 to the Town of Northborough to help pay for expenses relating to COVID-19. For example, these funds could be used to pay for a hotel room for a first responder if they happened to be exposed to COVID-19 and needs to self-quarantine.

Mr. Mellin shared that septic inspections and plan review is still happening as usual. There have been no regular food inspections in order to limit close contact with others.

Mr. Mellin said that initially, there was some confusion amongst business owners in terms of who is essential vs. non-essential but all of the businesses have been cooperative.

6:17 - Discussion of EMS response to COVID-19

Chief Parenti discussed the town's EMS response to COVID-19. Mr. Parenti made note that there are town resources available to vulnerable populations such as the senior center and Family/Youth services. Schools are providing food for children that normally receive free lunch. Mr. Parenti complimented Ann Labonte, Town Nurse, on her hard work tracking all COVID-19 cases as well as working to reach out to anyone that may have been in contact with an infected person.

Mr. Parenti also discussed practices regarding first responders and PPE. First responders are taking extra precautions when responding to emergency calls. First responders are being alerted as to the addresses of anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19 so that if they get called out to that address, they can take proper precautions and wear the appropriate PPE. Names of infected people are not released, as that is a violation of HIPAA laws.

Mr. Mellin and Mr. Parenti both stated that Northborough has been following all guidelines set forth by the state.

Glenn French thanked the town as well as the residents for doing their part and keeping their social distance. Mr. French believes the town is doing what they should be doing and has a good grasp on how to handle COVID-19. Mr. French asked that residents continue to wear their masks, stay home as much as possible, and limit their trips to the store.

Mr. Parenti reiterated that the Town will be strictly adhering to HIPAA laws and will not be releasing info on anyone that tests positive for COVID-19.

Theresa Capobianco thanked Mr. Mellin and Chief Parenti for all of their hard work on Northborough's response to COVID-19.

Establish future meeting date

The next Board of Health meeting was *tentatively* scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

Motion to adjourn at 6:49 PM by Glenn French, seconded by Theresa Capobianco, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Holt