

Shutesbury Board of Health conference call meeting

March 18, 2020, 7:00 pm

Because of technical difficulties, the meeting was continued to March 19, 2020, 7:00 pm

Present: The usual suspects

Oh, okay, it was Ken Rotondi, chair; Catherine Hilton, clerk; Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Al Werner, board members; Garrett Simonsen, guest.

1. Call to order 7:05 pm.
2. Minutes of previous meeting approved.
3. Discussion of open-meeting law considerations including e-mail deliberation and opening zoom.com meetings to the public. We await training on this subject.
4. News.

There is now a page on the town website devoted to pandemic information. Suggestions for additions to the page: Neighborhood Safety Net, cleaning and disinfection, how to help including proper precautions when interacting with others to help them.

New requirement to notify first responders of any address where a positive case of COVID-19 has been identified. This notification then gets into the 911 system. Ken checking to make sure EMD does that. No positive cases have yet been reported in Shutesbury.

Supplies, equipment, funding: Norene reported that the state has given the HMCC the authority to make exchanges of supplies from both town and MAPHCO stocks; 40 outdated N-95 masks from our trailer were exchanged for 40 gowns. Western Massachusetts Homeland Security is requesting \$100K from state and federal agencies for the entire region for supplies and equipment; the idea is to get the request submitted and approved even before the supplies are available. Fire chiefs were also asked to submit their requests; Ken will get a copy of EMD request, as well as a list of any other supplies ordered or received.

There is also state money being disbursed to districts. A preliminary budget was submitted by the Charlie and Claudia but we don't agree with all of it. In response, Norene and Arleen used a FRCOG questionnaire to consider what needs we might have and how much they would cost. Significant items would include:

- about \$12,000 for a public health nurse. (Alternatively, Garrett said in some districts school nurses are being used to do contact tracing and MAVEN monitoring. Norene will contact the superintendent to discuss this possibility.)
- \$90,000 for food and supplies for persons in isolation or quarantine who require such assistance. (These figures are for the entire district.)
- Personal protective equipment, for which they will use the amount requested by the EMD.

This document will be sent to the district to indicate our priorities for future requests.

There has been renewed interest in Neighborhood Safety Net and other initiatives; Cat working with them.

5. Actions taken

The board voted unanimously in favor of the following:

- to allow anything in the trailer to be used by the Emergency Management Team;
- to restrict BOH announcements to the town announcement list and the new web page;
- to cancel the water sampling program for the end of March;
- to plan on having weekly meetings as needed.

6. Discussion of future needs and possibilities

Drive-by testing: this is unlikely to be needed but we might plan for drive-by vaccination when the time comes. Norene will get the plan used by Deerfield from Carolyn Ness.

Isolation and Quarantine: we have various documents to guide us on this, including boilerplate for written orders. Normally these are not needed as people can be educated on the importance of staying home. Arleen will demonstrate this at our next meeting. Perhaps we will need thermometers to distribute, as some people do not have them.

Will Lake Wyola State Park open? Cat will contact Steve Hubbard from DCR and ask Charlie to talk with Morse Hill. According to the MH website, they have an event scheduled for May 2.

COOP re MAVEN: who will be Arleen's backup? Claudia Lucas had let her account lapse but said she would try to reinstate it. Arleen circulated an on-line training.

8. Adjourn 8:40. Next meeting Wednesday March 25.