

Shutesbury Board of Health
Virtual meeting
April 29, 2020, 7 pm

Present: Ken Rotondi, chair; Catherine Hilton, clerk; Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Al Werner, board members; Garrett Simonsen, guest; other guests noted below.

Minutes of April 23 meeting approved.

Discussion:

Arleen reported that a confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported for a Shutesbury resident but that person has been in a nursing home in Amherst for some time, so the contact tracing is not our responsibility.

Norene reported that according to the weekly DPH call, summer camp guidance would not be issued before May 18. Arleen said Morse Hill camp has canceled all programming until at least late May, and their next scheduled event is June 22.

Norene has ordered ten thermometers for distribution to people in quarantine if necessary.

Cat reported a conversation with Police Chief Dan Fernandez regarding public congregating and social distance: we do not expect the police to enforce these policies but they will continue to educate the public and encourage them to comply when they see violations.

7:15 Carol Samuels and Donna West of Lake Wyola Association joined the meeting to ask about their beaches this summer. The board advised them to work with their membership to develop strategies for sharing space and time on the beaches in order to maintain social distancing. The board is prepared to close the beaches if crowding is not avoided; however, enforcement is dubious. Cat will contact the beach water quality program at DPH to make sure they don't have to test the water if the beaches are closed.

Farmers's markets: new guidance has just been released. The board agreed to let Becky implement the guidelines as she sees fit.

Town elections: Becky and Susie are working on developing safe procedures. At the moment the assumption is that the elections will be held at Town Hall on June 27, and Annual Town Meeting will once again be postponed. Garrett said we have the authority to order the wearing of masks at the polls as long as we include an exemption for people whose health would be negatively affected. Possibly we could have an outdoor voting station for those who can't wear masks.

DPH funding: half of our budget was allocated to contact tracing and won't be needed. How to reallocate those funds? Buy election supplies? PPE? Library support? Disinfection of polling place after election? Norene and Arleen will follow up on all this.

FEMA: We have been asked to keep track of the any expenses and time spent on pandemic response for potential FEMA reimbursement. Cat will compile this and the others can report their time spent to her.

32 Lake Drive follow-up: ConCom is holding up their hearing on this project until they can have it in person, so our permit has not been issued yet.

Adjourn 8 pm.