

Eastern Highlands Health District Board of Directors

Regular Meeting Minutes

Virtual meeting Via
Zoom*
Thursday June 18, 2020

Members present: E. Anderson (Andover), J. Carrington (Mansfield), J. Elsesser, (Coventry), W. Kaufold (Mansfield), J. Kelly (Bolton), T. Nuccio (Tolland), E. Paterson (Mansfield), M. Rosen (Tolland), B. Syme (Scotland) D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walter (Columbia), E. Wicewski (Willington)

Staff present: R. Miller, M. Brosseau, K. Dardick

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

R. Miller welcomed and introduced Dr. William Kaufold to the board. W. Kaufold is a new representative of Mansfield. Board members introduced themselves.

D. Walsh made a MOTION seconded by E. Anderson to approve the minutes of the 4/23/2020 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED with W. Kaufold abstaining.

Public Comments

Outreach was done per Executive order. No comments were received.

Agreement for Local Public Health Emergency Preparedness Services By and Between the EHHD and NDDH FY20/21- authorize

R. Miller presented an overview of the agreement.

E. Anderson made a MOTION seconded E. Wicewski to authorize execution of the "Agreement for Local Public Health Emergency Preparedness Services by and between the Eastern Highlands Health District and the Northeast District Department of Health" as presented on June 18, 2020. MOTION Passed unanimously.

Town Reports

Andover E. Anderson reported that the Andover Town Hall is back to full staffing. The building is still closed to the public. Discussions are occurring regarding reopening athletics and developing procedures for softball league and soccer league to use the fields. Difficulties are being faced with senior transportation to stores.

Willington E. Wicewski reported that the Willington Town Hall will be fully staffed beginning Monday, June 29th. The building is still closed to the public. Town Playgrounds have been reopened. Schools have not reopened their playgrounds. The town hall is operating "business as usual" by appointment. Food drives have been done to help primarily seniors in the town.

Mansfield J. Carrington reported that the Mansfield Community Center will be reopening June 22nd; the library is still closed, but offering curbside pickup. There are plans to reopen the library in July.

Playgrounds have been reopened. The Mansfield Town Hall remains closed to the public. Currently there are no plans to bring everyone back to work. Restaurants are functioning. And concerns regarding UConn reopening are being addressed.

Tolland M. Rosen reported that playgrounds in Tolland reopened June 18th. All the playground equipment has been power washed and signage has been added indicating "Play at your own risk" and "Be Cognoscente of Social Distancing". On June 29th, staff will be returning to The Tolland Town Hall. Plans for reopening to the public will be a phased approach.

M. Rosen noted that 2 restaurants in Tolland have outdoor seating. And that businesses are hurting. Twice weekly Emergency Operations meetings.

Scotland B. Syme reported that the Scotland Town Hall is still closed; the park is reopened and the library is open by appointment.

Columbia M. Walter reported that the Columbia Town Hall will be fully staffed and open to the Public by appointment as of July 6th. Installation of sneeze guards on senior buses is being investigated. Senior Center still is not open but meal delivery continues. Playgrounds in Columbia have reopened. The Columbia beach has reopened with a limit of 55 people. That number is based on what is believed to be how much separation is safe between family units on the beach. M. Walter informed the board that he is investigating the addition of a liability exemption to contracts for renting facilities. He further stated that the Chinese restaurant in town is open for take-out and The Main Moose is booming.

Bolton J. Kelly reported that the Bolton Town Hall has reopened. There are 2 groups of workers, alternating work weeks, Through July 4th weekend. Phase 2 will be full staff and remaining closed to the public. Weekly unified command meetings are being held. There is discussion about reopening fields and tennis courts. Currently, the Indian Notch beach remains closed. There is curbside pick-up and drop off from the library. No plans to reopen the senior center at this time.

Coventry J. Elsesser reported that the Coventry Town Hall has been fully staffed for 2 weeks. A full reopening will be fully staffed beginning June 29th. Monitors will be installed to limit the number of people in the building. 2 of 4 exterior doors will be locked; cameras and buzzers will be installed at these doors. More public meetings will be held. The Town is encouraging tax payers to pay via online or mailing a check. Summer camp is not going to be held. Permit activity is at high levels in the Building department. The annual lake treatment for hydrilla has been planned and in conjunction with Mansfield, Eagleville will be treated for fanwort. A 9 hole disc golf course will be opening. Fire departments are merging effective July 1. New Chief and deputy chiefs will be sworn in on June 29th. Black Lives Matter march held and it went well.

D. Walsh brought to the board questions from citizens.

How long does a person who is asymptomatic but tests positive for the virus need to quarantine? Rob noted that they should self isolate 10 days from the sample collection date.

How can people go back to work with no day camps available? Rob noted that Mansfield is planning to host summer camp, but have not met the threshold to hold the camp. Others shared reasons for cancelling summer camps.

M. Walter asked whether there were different rules for a gathering such as a Black Lives Matter gathering vs softball games. Rob noted there are separate rules for each.

Subcommittee Reports

Executive Committee

R. Miller presented an overview of the motion brought to the Executive Committee to waive fees related to expedited approvals for phase 1 reopening. Executive Committee approved the motion.

Director's Report

COVID-19 Response Activities - Update

R. Miller provided an update on some of the activities with which the health district is involved. There was additional discussion regarding the mass vaccination efforts, contact tracing and the epidemiological curve of total counts on a weekly basis. It was noted that a large team of contact tracers may be needed to catch the number of cases anticipated due to UConn's plans to test all students, staff, and faculty. Further, R. Miller noted that based on the H1N1 experience it may be necessary to hire additional staff to support a mass vaccination campaign.

Quarterly Activity Report for the periods ending 12/31/19 & 3/31/20

R. Miller highlighted key points on these reports, noting that the cosmetology program was put on hold due to COVID-19.

R. Miller informed the board that he has been appointed to University of Connecticut Institutional Biosafety committee.

ViewPoint Cloud – Update

R. Miller reported that the online permit and payment system has been launched and is working very well.

E. Paterson made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter to adjourn at 5:49 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary