

Health Commission Minutes 7/16/2020

This was a Zoom teleconference meeting.

Present: Patricia Parry, Barbara Decker, Thomas Getreuer, Roslyn Robertson, Ted Jankowski

Absent: Dr. Calder

The meeting was called to order at 8:04AM

The corrected minutes of the meeting of June 11 were accepted by all.

There was no correspondence.

Director of Health Report: Contact tracing has begun 2 weeks ago and is in full swing now

Preparing for the Fall: Influenza vaccination (Drive thru for BOE, BOR, BOF, etc.

Reopening the Clinic

Sero-survey

School re-openings: Planning for possibility

Hiring new staff: awaiting City approvals.

Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare. Mr. Jankowski addressed us by phone to update us on all that has been going on. The 911 Center has been using new technology to identify the actual GPS coordinates of a cell phone caller. This was used to full effect last week in rescuing a boater in distress. Caller can also photograph their location which can help identify where they are. Text to 911 works full time in Stamford. Helps in domestic violence cases. Some calls will be routed to State Police if on I-95 but ultimately the call is transferred to Stamford.

The Police Department is dealing with lots of protests. The NAACP has been doing great work with the PD and protesters as well as encouraging COVID testing. The Latham Park protests are ongoing and the new Police Chief, Shaw has been negotiating with them. A guest speaker for the NAACP will be talking about change in PD policies for the long term.

Mental Health is a priority now and the City has launched a mental health collaborative to deal with the expected uptick in cases secondary to COVID restrictions

Health Dept.: COVID-19 serology testing is underway. Contact tracing is in gear. There may be layoffs in Health Dept. Not clear yet. Assistant Director of Health position has been interviewed for and hopefully will start soon

Reopening of Stamford for Phase 3 was delayed

Schools not cleared for opening yet. Government center is open by appointment only. Masks are required.

Environmental Inspections are handling the complaints related to COVID-19. The PD is enforcing shutdowns.

Beach and Park Safety: No restaurants or Bars are open at the beaches. West Beach was restricted access last week due to overcrowding.

Old Business: Dr. Getreuer spoke with AG William Tong, Chief Counsel, Nicole Lake, and Henry Salton, Public Schools Chief regarding vaccines and exemptions to them for school children. The Vaccine Statute has not changed. The Religious Exemption is still there. The Medical Exemption is a little more restricted. Ms. Parry had asked the Health Commission whether we had any legal latitude to require the religious exemption to be verified yearly instead of the current system of just three times in the 12 years a child is in the school system. Dr. Getreuer asked if we would be violating any state statutes if we wanted to do this. The advice received was to have this conversation with our local Corporation Counsel, Kathryn Emmett, first and work through our local Boards in drafting the proper language to use in creating a bill. This would then have to be voted on locally. It is not clear, yet, whether this would go to the State or remain local in jurisdiction. Ms. Parry agreed to meet with Kathryn Emmett to explore our options.

Reappointments to the Health Commission: Ironically, all three Democratic members of the Health Commission are overdue for reappointment by the BOR. Martin Levine is aware of the situation and advised that BOR will get to us eventually.

New Business: Replacement of Resigned Board member. No resignation from Dr. Margaret Cobb has been received even though she verbally gave it to us at our last meeting.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on September 3, at 8AM.

Respectfully submitted by

Thomas Getreuer, DDS MAGD

Stamford health Commission Chair