

Board of Health Minutes

May 7, 2020

Town of Auburn
Board of Health
Town Hall Selectman's Room
104 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts

Members Present : Eric Otterson Chairman; Carolyn Griffin, Vice Chair

In Attendance: Darlene Coyle, Director of Public Health; Eileen Alexander, Asst. Public Health Director; Paula Conway, DDIS Administrative Assistant

Chairman Eric Otterson in accordance with the Open Meeting Law , called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Remote Meeting Participation

Board of Health

Join by phone: 1-646-749-3112

Access Code: 813-775-077

Join by Computer: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/813775077>

1. **Call to Order/ Recording Announcement/Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Reorganization of the Board-** We will remove the reorganization of the board till next meeting to all members are present.
3. **Review Agenda - Add/Remove any items** - We will remove the meeting minutes for 3/30/2020 until next meeting.
4. **Approval of Minutes - 3/20/2020** -removed
5. **Agenda Items**

Discussion- Single Use Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw-COVID-19 Update

The Single Use Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw had gone through the review of the AG office and was approved by the Town and Selectmen and was intended to start six months after approval. We are in the COVID-19 emergency, at the State level there was an order that came out March 25, 2020 and part of that order identified pharmacy, grocery store, food banks, and emergency food programs as essential. There were a lot of precautions put into place to prevent COVID-19 spread, and with that the State has ordered that those currently subject to municipal ordinances or regulations banning the Single Use Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw. You may choose to use recycled, paper, compostable bags or single use plastic bags. To cut down on possible transmission of the virus they do not want people bringing in reusable bags. Due to the COVID-19 it is on hold. Since the Board of Health is the enforcing authority, Darlene would like to have the Board review that we make a suggestion to the Selectmen, to hold off on enforcing the single use of plastic bag regulation bylaw till January 2021 or until we at least figure out what is going on at a State level and see if they are going to take any action on this matter.

Eric Otterson would like to entertain a motion to hold off on the Single Use Bag Reduction Bylaw and make a recommendation to the Selectmen that they do the same until at least January 2021 and to wait for guidance from the state.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to recommend to the Selectman to delay the Single Use Bag Reduction Bylaw until at least January 2021.

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Second: Eric Otterson

Vote 2-0

Discussion- COVID-19 Emergency Action Response, Updates, Orders, Inspections, Complaints, Operations. PPE supplies, MAVEN Updates, Community Programs.

Darlene Coyle updates the Board on COVID-19 as followed:

1. The number for positive COVID-19 cases for the Town of Auburn are 152 positive and 6 deaths that had increased from last week. We do know with testing increasing across the state we will see more positives, we are watching that very closely. We are fielding calls all the time regarding COVID orders and receiving guidance documents from the state and handing out that information accordingly. We are in contact with the State Department of Public Health on a daily basis to address concerns about cases, contact tracing, isolation, quarantine and requirements and so forth.
2. The Town of Auburn has put into place the Auburns Care Program, and there are two parts. A hotline (508-832-7720) for residents in need of resources, and we have received a lot of calls so far from residents/seniors looking for resources. Second part is an assistance with residents in need of meals and the meal program that is going on at the school. The phone lines are very active, and the program is going well.
3. We were fortunate to get recent order of PPE for the Board of Health.
4. We have seen some recent orders that have gone in to effect at the State level for face coverings. Our Department has already received numerous calls on it and the inspections have increased due to those calls for business that may need assistance and guidance on the order.

Eric Otterson ask if we need to vote or do we have the authority to enforce or fine businesses that are not in compliance with the orders? Darlene Coyle explains with the order under the chapter 111 section 30 the Department of Public Health are authorized agents to enforce if necessary with assistance of State or municipal police. These orders are to help prevent the spread of the virus. If the Board is comfortable with the language, we do not need to take action.

Maven Update:

Darlene Coyle - Explains that Eileen has spent a lot of time on this system with the MDPH, Maven is the virtual network that we are able to get information regarding COVID-19 and send information back that is completely confidential, and is in contact with the state constantly. I would like her to identify some of the thing she working on in Maven.

Eric Otterson- Maven is not only for COVID, this program has been in use many years and is used for all infection diseases.

Eileen Alexander- So for the Maven system we use, you are correct, we do receive all infection disease over it, however currently a majority of the cases are COVID-19. We are fortunate to have the school nurses working with us helping us do our community tracing through this program. So as all confirmed case come in we are calling them and their contacts. The state put out a great community tracing program that we are able to use if need be. But currently we are able to call all our contacts in the community and work with them with the guidance from the state with quarantine and isolation, as well as making sure they

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are ok in their homes and have what they need for services that the town may offer. The COVID numbers are kept up to date on a daily bases and can be found on MASS.GOV website as part of their dashboard for our town so residents can find the information there.

Eric Otterson would like to thank all Departments for their hard work during this difficult time.

NEXT MEETINGS : To be determined on available dates by email.

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to close the hearing.

Motion: Carolyn Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:24PM

Second: Eric Otterson Vote: All in favor 2-0

Approved on 9/28/2020