

**Meeting Notes from the Regular Meeting of the Peabody Board of Health,
May 19, 2020**

**Participating in the Virtual Meeting: Chairman Bernard Horowitz, Member Dr. Leigh Ann Mansberger,
Member Thomas J. Durkin III, Health Department Director Sharon Cameron, and Recording Secretary Lisa
Greene.**

The meeting was held remotely at 4:30 p.m. Via Zoom

Subject: Meeting to be called to order

Discussion: Chairman Bernard Horowitz called the meeting to order at 4:30. Mr. Horowitz introduced himself and checked by asking if each board and staff member was present and if each could hear and be heard. All could, so Mr. Horowitz proceeded to explain that this open meeting of the Peabody Board of Health was being held remotely in accordance with Governor Baker's executive order of March 12, 2020 due to the current state of emergency in the Commonwealth due to the Covid-19 Virus. In order to mitigate the transmission of the Covid-19 virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings and as such, the Governor's order suspends the requirement of the open meeting law to have all meetings in locations that are physically accessible to the public. Further, all members or public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. The order, which can be found posted with the agenda materials for this meeting, allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. Ensuring public access does not mean ensuring public participation, unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will not feature public comment, however, if the Mayor, City Solicitor, or another elected official is in attendance, I may call upon that person for comment. This meeting of the Peabody Board of Health is convening via video conference via Zoom, as posted on the City of Peabody website, identifying how the public may join. Please note that this videoconference is being recorded, and that some attendees are participating by video conference. Please be aware that other people can see you during this video conference, and that you should not screen share your computer screen as anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording. All supporting materials that were made available to the Board are available on the city website, unless otherwise noted. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda which has been posted on the City website. He then explained that there were no hearings on the agenda today and that there were no minutes for review, so this would be a short meeting, and said that the Board would get to the agenda items, foremost of course, the response to the Covid-19 virus.

Subject: Update on COVID-19 response actions - Data update

Discussion: The Board reviewed the slide presentation prepared for them by Ms. Cameron and her staff regarding the most recent Covid data for Peabody and the state. Ms. Cameron went over some of the information from the presentation and explained that cases continue to go up in the city and the region.

Subject: Update on COVID-19 response actions - Status of long-term care facilities

Discussion: Ms. Cameron reminded the Board that at the last meeting a vote was taken and unanimously agreed to issue a directive to require that all long term care facilities report additional information on how they are managing infection control, and asking what they are doing for surveillance in their facilities. She told that she had put together a directive that the board had reviewed last meeting but explained that she had tweaked it slightly with input from the nurses. She also reminded that the concern had been expressed over balancing the need to get this important information while not putting too much of a burden on the already overworked and understaffed facilities that is going to interfere with people's ability to manage their patients. She reported that a longer response time was being allowed and the original form was streamlined. The Board reviewed the amended document and all agreed that the changes were good ones. Mr. Horowitz again thanked Ms. Cameron and said that she had done a great job.

Subject: Update on COVID-19 response actions - Planning for reopening

Discussion: Ms. Cameron reported that her staff continues to field calls from many residents and business owners who are eager to hear about plans for reopening. She explained that the Governor has allowed a staged reopening to begin in its first phase as of May 18, and now manufacturing and construction have been allowed to be open as long as the required safety measures and plans are in place. She told that her staff are fielding many calls and working closely with businesses to help with their reopening plans and to put the necessary Covid response protocols in place. She said that the Health Department is not required to approve plans but is helping businesses to take steps to meet the statewide and local requirements for reopening. She went on to tell that additional businesses will be allowed to open on May 25, including Lab space, Office space, Limited Personal Services (Hair –Pet grooming – Car washes), retail sales with Remote fulfillment or Curbside pick-up, and on June 1 the plan allows for opening of some Office spaces, all of which will have their own specific set of issues and distinct requirements depending upon the space and type of business and number of employees, so it is a challenge to interpret all these directives for businesses.

Subject: Update on COVID-19 response actions- Considerations for expanded testing

Discussion: Ms. Cameron told that she is in conversations with local ambulance companies and pharmacies to look into the possibility of having them conduct COVID testing for residents.

Subject: Discussion of additional local COVID response actions

Discussion: Ms. Cameron asked if the Board had any suggestions for any additional COVID response actions at this time. The Board agreed that nothing else comes to mind, adding that Ms. Cameron is very much out in front of things, and that she has their thanks.

Subject: Next Meeting June 3, 2020@ 4:30 p.m. Meeting Adjourned: 5:16 p.m.