

Manchester Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members present:

Paula Filias, Peter Colarusso, Joan Cottler, Dr. Martin Hahn, Dr. Tonya Colpitts

Members absent: None

Also present: Town Administrator Greg Federspiel

Coronavirus Update

Nurse Mary Higgins provided the following Coronavirus update for Manchester:

- 148 cases, 13 of which are active
- Holding at 13/14 new cases each week
- 972 Covid-19 tests of Manchester residents, with 2.29% positive

Mr. Colarusso asked if there were currently any clusters to which Nurse Higgins said no.

School Reopening

Dr Hahn had no update

Dr. Colpitts provided the following updates:

- Ginko nasal testing to start in middle and high school, no testing at elementary school.  
Ginko is offering free Covid-19 testing in month of January for pools of 25, 2 times per week (regular cost \$12-\$15 per test).
- Ginko test results are reported weekly, any positive pool will then require students to provide an individual negative covid-19 test result.
- State D.E.S.E. will also now offer pool testing in schools.

Dr. Hahn noted that a positive pool will require Abbott Binex antigen testing for confirmation versus p.c.r. negative for anyone with a positive test.

Mr. Colarusso asked if covid testing was required for in person learning.

Dr. Colpitts answered that testing was voluntary and that insurance should cover the cost.

She noted that the testing is surveillance based, hoping to catch the asymptomatic carriers.

Mr. Colarusso asked if the pool testing would show if the schools are not safe.

Dr. Colpitts answered that the schools are extremely safe as precautions being taken are the helpers.

### Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics

Nurse Higgins outlined the many demands associated with standing up a Covid-19 vaccination clinic, her list included the following:

- Expectations
- Resources
- Completing all phases
- Multiple clinics
- 2<sup>nd</sup> doses
- Complications/problems with phases
- Covid-19 is State funded, must follow State rules
- MIIIS reporting
- Ordering, Inventory Control, Vaccine Storage, Temperature taking

She suggested partnerships with others, possibly Gloucester – with Manchester supplying their vaccine to the partnership. Dr. Hahn noted that there were many obstacles with standing up the clinics. He suggested a working group be put together to review partnership options.

Ms. Cottler made note of covid-19 vaccinations being made available to veterans thru the V.A. Hospital in Bedford. She asked for assistance in getting the word out on this service. Communications personnel Tiffany Marletta agreed to obtain the information from Ms. Cottler and to post it on the Town website and weekly press release.

Members discussed the need for E.M.T. assistance with vaccination clinics.

Town Administrator Greg Federspiel said that he had been made aware of the possibility of a partnership with Allen's Pharmacy and their contact at Conley's Pharmacy in Ipswich.

Members agreed to form a vaccine working committee to investigate possible options for delivering Covid-19 vaccinations. Participating in that committee would be the following: Ms. Cottler, Dr. Hahn, Nurse Higgins, Greg Federspiel, Ellen Lufkin, and one local resident. Ms. Lufkin suggested the local nurse Mary Cody-Kenney (who had offered to assist in this process) serve on the group, all were in agreement.

Ms. Filias asked the Board members if they felt that Governor Baker's current Covid-19 related restrictions were sufficient. Mr. Colarusso said that local businesses are trying hard to comply with the Governor's Orders and that while there are still some people without masks, that 95% of people are wearing masks. Dr. Colpitts noted that she would like to see more hand sanitizers available at store entrances and at the credit card stations used at checkout.

Mr. Federspiel asked if a Board member could join the next Board of Selectmen's meeting, Dr. Hahn volunteered to participate. Mr. Federspiel also asked if it was possible to add more information to the Board of Health weekly Covid reporting. Dr. Hahn replied it is a sticky issue as patient confidentiality is most important. He that maybe some more information was possible. Nurse Higgins quoted the Mass Department of Public Health guidance on reporting just the case numbers. Nurse Higgins was asked if she could track the asymptomatic, by pulling out the active cases. Nurse Higgins replied that she could not as the cases are fluid.

### 1 King's Way

Members reviewed revisions to an approved septic system plan on file for 1 King's Way. Dr. Colpitts made a motion to approve the revised septic system plan, dated 11/16/21, as presented by Randy Burley P.E. for 1 King's Way. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. By roll call vote, members voted unanimously in favor of the motion:

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Filias, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

### Minutes

Ms. Filias made a motion to approve the minutes of November 19, 2020 and December 4, 2020 as submitted. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. By roll call vote, members voted unanimously in favor of the motion:

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Filias, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

At 9:30 a.m., with no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Colarusso seconded the motion.

By roll call vote, members voted unanimously in favor of the motion:

Dr. Colpitts, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Filias, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin

Administrative Assistant

