

Manchester Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 24, 2022

Virtual Meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Members present:

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

Members absent:

Dr. Tonya Colpitts

Covid Update:

At 8:31 a.m. Paula Filias called the meeting to order. She asked Nurse Crehan to provide her Covid update.

Total cumulative cases to date (03/01/20 – 02/23/22): 567

Active cases: 3

February cases (02/01/22 – 02/23/22): 16

Hospitalizations: 0

Vaccinated, age 5 and over: 83%

Nurse Crehan reported that both the schools and the Town Hall would no longer have mask mandates as of 02/28/22. She noted that Mass D.P.H. provided updates included a Covid funeral allowance of up to \$9,000.

Related to mask metrics, Nurse Crehan reported:

< 25 cases for the week

3.4% positivity rate for Essex County

3.5% positivity rate for Manchester

85% hospitalization rate for Essex County (40 non covid / 7 covid)

7 cases probable covid by antigen testing

Covid Test Kit Distribution

Member discussed distribution of Covid test kits to residents.

Dr. Hahn noted that the Manchester statistics are good and that the area wastewater testing results are also good. However, he pointed out that across the country, there are still many deaths from Covid each day. He shared that the moving average is the same as the fall 2021 and the spring of 2020. He encouraged prevention and being careful.

Members agreed that following the March 7th Covid booster shot clinic, residents would be allowed 2 Covid test kit boxes (2 kits per box) per household. Members agreed to review distribution after looking at the clinic turnout. It was agreed that residents would request kits thru the Town website.

Mr. Colarusso reminded everyone that the federal government is still providing Covid test kits thru the postal system. Ms. Filias asked that the office staff contact the Manchester Housing Authority to see if they would like a second deliver of Covid test kits for their elderly housing and family housing residents.

Ms. Filias asked that staff check with housing authority residents to see if the first round of test kits were delivered door to door, and if they were not, that Board of Health office staff should provide that service.

Water Quality Task Force (W.Q.T.F.) Update, Peter Colarusso:

Mr. Colarusso shared that Senator Tarr's office was looking into funding for Ipswich Watershed district testing. He noted that while Manchester has adequate water supply, the supply is not enough to share with other communities. He reminded the members that the Manchester Essex Conservation Trust (M.E.C.T.) had submitted a proposed Board of Health regulation that the Board had not yet acted on but had on hold as the Water Quality Task Force was formed and began their work.

Mr. Colarusso provided the following additional information from the Water Quality Task Force meetings:

- Board of Health can request testing for water contamination
- MECT paperwork may change
- WQTF had broken down in to six working groups
- Thinks WQTF will address most issues in the MECT proposal
- Recommend holding off on response to MECT to allow WQTF to do its work
- Two wells identified on School Street, one in Essex & one in Manchester, question if they can be revived for use
- There are no regulations on acquirers that cross Town lines, referencing the proposed >50 development in Hamilton
- MECT proposal is very involved, WQTF work will require varied departments and meetings
- That work will include PFA's and remedial septic system work

Ms. Filias thanked Mr. Colarusso for his work with the WQTF.

At 9:02 Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote were unanimous to approve the motion to adjourn the meeting:

Ms. Filias, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin

Administrative Assistant