

SUDBURY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of Virtual Emergency Board Meeting March 18, 2020

Virtual Attendance: Board Chair Carol Bradford, Board Member Susan Sama, Board Member Linda Huet-Clayton, Health Director William Murphy, Public Health Nurse – Phyllis Schilp, Social Worker Bethany Hadvab and Admin. Beth Porter, Select Board member – Jane Dretler, Select Board member Jen Roberts, Acting Town MGR – Maryanne Bilodeau, resident Dan Carty.

1:09 PM: Chair Carol Bradford calls Emergency meeting to order.

1:09: Declaration of State of Emergency – Town of Sudbury Select Board and Board of Health:

COVID-19 Health Director – In response Governor Baker’s State of Emergency Announcement Town Counsel drafted a Sudbury State of Emergency at the request of the Select Board. As drafted, the Declaration states that the Select Board and Board for Health respond to an evolving situation that will impact Town of Sudbury and Sudbury residents.

Select Board members and Board of Health members discussed the language and overall impact of the Declaration: Jane Dretler conveys the parameters of the declaration:

Allows the Boards (Select and Health) to suspend activities.

Aligns Sudbury’s position on COVID-19 with MDPH (Mass Dept. of Public Health).

Provides mechanism for funding without limits of Prop. 2 1/2.

Carol Bradford read the Declaration into record.

Declaration of Emergency – COVID-19

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health, following consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both

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within and outside of the Town of Sudbury; and

WHEREAS, the Sudbury Board of Selectmen and its Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Sudbury; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Sudbury; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health recommended that a state of emergency be declared in the town of Sudbury.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health of the Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of today, March 18, 2020, a state of emergency exists in the Town of Sudbury. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.

VOTE: The Board of Health voted to institute the Sudbury State of Emergency Until Further Notice. Chair Carol Bradford called vote to motion, Susan Sama Board Member seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-0-0.

VOTE: The Board of Health to allow acting Town Manager, Maryanne Bilodeau, to sign State of Emergency Declaration into record: Carol Bradford – Health Chair called to vote to motion, Susan Sama, Board Member, seconded motion. Motion passes 3-0-0.

Sudbury Town Spaces: Susan Sama, Health Board Member, brought up concerns that playgrounds and public spaces, should be closed off, or at the very least, closely monitored. This would help to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Carol Bradford noted that other states have already closed off public areas. This concern stems from the amount of time that COVID-19 virus remains active on surfaces and the 6 feet of social distancing that should be adhered to. Linda Huet-Clayton – Health Board Member suggested that signage be posted to deter residents from using these areas. Mr. Murphy, Health Director, agreed that restricting access to playgrounds and advise residents to social distance at fields reduce the risk of infection and would help to mitigate the spreading of the virus. Mr. Murphy will ask Brad Crozier, SPS Superintendent to address school parks and Park and Recreation to address town parks and fields.

Communication: It was discussed that the Sudbury Town Boards, Committees, management and critical personnel should establish lines of communication. The Health Department and Select Board look into the frequency and best medium to use for messaging.

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Maryanne Bilodeau: will initiate the following:

- Cancel Annual Town Election.
- Close all Town Offices to public
- Post on Town Website, initiate reverse 911 call and Rave messaging, notifying residents and business owners of the Sudbury State of Emergency.

Virtual Meeting Adjourned 1:50 PM