

East Longmeadow Board of Health Agenda

Tuesday, April 27, 2021; 6:00p.m. at East Longmeadow - Zoom

Board of Health Members Present: Karen Robitaille, R.N. Dr. Sarah Perez McAdoo and Christine Johnston, MPH

Health Department Staff Present: Aimee Petrosky, Alix Shipman and Donna Bowman

Visitor: Olan Johnston and Phillip Chapman

Topic	Discussion/Action Taken/Decision Made
Call to order and Chair Announcements	Meeting called to order by Chair, Karen Robitaille at 6:00 p.m.
Approve minutes of previous meetings: February 23, 2021	Motion to approve minutes as written from February 23, 2021 made by Christine Johnston and seconded by Karen Robitaille out of necessity. Motion passed 2-0. Sarah Perez McAdoo abstained.
Public Comment	
New Business	
Board Reorganization	<p>Motion to reorganize the Board of Health roles made by Karen Robitaille and seconded by Christine Johnston. Motion passed 3-0.</p> <p>Motion to nominate Sarah Perez McAdoo to serve as chair, Karen Robitaille to serve as vice chair and Christine Johnston to serve as secretary made by Karen Robitaille and seconded by Christine Johnston. Motion passed 3-0.</p>
Certificate of Appreciation for Phillip Chapman & Olan Johnston	<p>Donna Bowman, MRC Coordinator, introduces the role of the East Longmeadow Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) in the community. MRC is a national network of volunteers organized locally to improve the health and safety of our community. MRC volunteer groups are comprised of medical and public health professionals, as well as members without healthcare backgrounds. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, MRC has been called upon for assistance with mask making and delivery, vaccine clinics, and Meals on Wheels Delivery. Recently, the Health Department, in partnership with the EL Fire Department have held 37 Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics. MRC volunteers were called upon to assist with registrations, check in, check out, set up, and break down of the clinics. Tonight we want to recognize two of our most dedicated volunteers, Olan Johnston and Phillip Chapman.</p> <p>Olan has been with our MRC unit since March 8, 2019. His background is in Law Enforcement and EMT/Paramedic and he manages the Covid-19 safety operations for the First Congregational Church. In April of 2020, the Council on Aging called on the ELMRC to assist with Meals on Wheels deliveries. Olan answered that call and is still assisting with these deliveries to this day. In May of 2020, the Clerks Office called on volunteers to assist at voting polls and sorting pre-voting ballots. Olan volunteered for both and the Town Clerk responded in appreciation to his extreme professionalism and work ethic. In February of 2021,</p>

	<p>volunteers were called again to assist with the Towns Vaccine Clinics. Olan assisted at 26/37 clinics with registrations, check out and set up/breakdown. Olan has also volunteered at past Health Department Flu Clinics.</p> <p>Phil has been a member of the ELMRC since November 23, 2018. Phil volunteered to assist the MRC with registering residents 75+ for their Covid-19 Vaccine. He also volunteered at 22/37 of our Vaccine Clinics and assisted with registrations, check out and set up/breakdown. In the past, Phil has been active in public outreach and recruitment, shelter exercises, flu clinics and delivery of emergency go bags for the senior residents in town. Phil is always eager to volunteer and step up to any opportunity in a variety of settings. His enthusiasm is inspiring.</p> <p>The Health Department is extremely grateful for all Olan and Phil has done. Karen thanks Olan and Phil for everything they've done on behalf of the board and presents them with a certificate of appreciation from our Town Manager as well as gift certificates purchased with grant money from the National Association of County and City Health Officials. This grant money is to support MRC member readiness. The Town of East Longmeadow really owe a great deal of debt for all their work.</p>
Farmer's Market Permit	<p>Due to a new farmers market in town, Aimee presents a newly created farmers market permit with a set fee of \$75. A traditional one day temporary food event permit is \$45 per day, so this is remarkably discounted. Anyone who is selling unaltered farm goods will have the fee waived, but are still asked to fill out the permit, but the fee is waived. The \$75 fee goes to vendors who are selling baked pies, jellies and jams, processed foods, etc as their inspection is more involved. A food truck or hot dog vendor will be required to get a food truck or hot dog cart permit if attending the farmer's market.</p> <p>Farmer's Market Fridays at Center Field will start the second week in May. It will be a later in the day event on Fridays. Sarah asks if there's anything different we have to do for the farmers market during Covid. Aimee says there were guidelines in place, but those restrictions have been removed as of today. Christine asks if there's another type of permit for people wanting to sell items other than food products or if it falls under our permit. Aimee says we don't get involved in anything other than what falls under the food code, however, they still need to fill out an application through the Recreation Department. Sarah asks what the frequency would be for inspections at the farmers market and how many people are interested. Aimee says as the event gets bigger, it will draw in more vendors, so certain vendors may require more inspections later on such as cheeses, farm fresh eggs or meat products. One of the things that was recently discussed and turned down by the Recreation Department is alcohol sales, as it was decided that it would not be a good addition to the farmers market. Sarah suggests posting healthy foods and healthy choices on our social media along with advertising the event. Karen says she's hopeful our farmers market is going to accept EBT, SNAP benefits, or WIC. Aimee says she was not involved in the specific planning of the farmers market other than the food piece, but she will look into it. Karen also suggests now would be a good time to approach the PVTA to add a bus stop at the center so people have a way to get to the farmers market from other communities. It's not a simple process to add a bus stop, but now that we have an economic center in town that no one can get to, it creates a real opportunity to increase access for people. Karen says she will find out</p>

	<p>who the Recreation Department can reach out to in order to start the process in accepted EBT and other benefits if they have not already.</p> <p>Motion to approve the farmer's market permit application and the associated fee made by Karen Robitaille and seconded by Christine Johnston. Motion passed 3-0.</p>
<p>Food Service Permit Application Adjustment</p>	<p>The Planning Board has recently started accepting applications for residential kitchens or Cottage Food permits. The food code allows people to cook non-potentially hazardous food items or PHF's such as cupcakes in their homes. Previously, Planning Board has not approved these types of permits. Aimee presented an update to our FSE application to accommodate this as an option. Added on page 2 page of our food permit application is a residential food permit with a flat fee of \$200.00. As these get more popular, we will see requests for grease trap variants. Karen says during Covid there has been a growth in this type of industry and she can see why the town wants to support that.</p> <p>Motion to approve the amendment to our food service permit with the associated fee made by Karen Robitaille and seconded by Sarah Perez McAdoo. Motion passed 3-0.</p>
<p>2020 Annual Report</p>	<p>The 2020 annual report was included in the packet as it was recently published. Aimee updated the Board that it look different than in years past due to the pandemic and Donna's preventative inspections have fallen off from previous years and shifted elsewhere. We included the Covid calls we were tracking, inspections and case information for the year. We expect this to continue into the following year until the pandemic dies down and can get back to our normal workload and events we usually report. Aimee says one of the pieces she's really proud of is the flu clinic data. Even during the pandemic, we were able to hold a successful flu clinic and go up over 250 flu vaccines than we normally do due to doing our clinic in a drive through fashion that was much more efficient. We had only positive feedback from the community and there was no wait when in the past we usually had a 20-30 minute wait. Another item of note is a new RFP is out for our trash hauler. It takes about a year for a trash truck to become available, so when this time we put out the RFP a year before our contract was ending to give them enough time to get the equipment instead of incurring rental fees for equipment.</p>
<p>Old Business</p>	
<p>Mosquito Control Update</p>	<p>In 2019, we saw a dramatic increase in cases of EEE cases and they started much earlier than anticipated and at a higher frequency. EEE outbreaks typically occur in cycles of 2-3 years, so we had anticipated that last year would be another big year for EEE. However, that was not the case and broke all kinds of expectations. We're part of the Mosquito Control District and pay \$5,000 a year into the district for them to do surveillance in our community in areas that are known breeding grounds. We did not have one West Nile virus mosquito last year. Karen wonders what the impact of travel being shut down has on the mosquito population. Aimee says birds are carriers, but it is weird especially because so many people were spending so much time outdoors in 2020. This season will be interesting to see what happens with the mosquito</p>

	<p>population. We are continuing our surveillance efforts this year and catch basin treatments to treat more heavily used extracurricular areas in town. A secondary company does the treatment. We use 90-day pellets that do not contain anything harmful. We hope to move to having the Mosquito Control District do both surveillance and treatment next year.</p> <p>Karen asks if the tick testing program is still in place. Aimee says it's still in place, but it's no longer affiliated with UMass, but the lab is honoring our agreement. The website is still tickreport.com and you can get a tick tested for \$10. If you get a tick on you, don't throw it away, save it and send it in to get tested at tickreport.com.</p>
<p>Covid-19 – Cases & Clinics</p>	<p>The Board was informed our clinics are now over besides one last second dose clinic this week with a small number of people. We were designated a red community two weeks ago, but our case numbers have gone down to below to pre-surge numbers over the last two weeks. So far this month we are looking at about 90 cases, which is the lowest we've hit since October of last year. Our biggest demographic previously was the 20-50 age range. After breaking down that age group and tracking it for a month, our biggest demographic is the parent age group with 30 out of 90 cases. The pediatric group and 75+ group are tied with about 20 cases in each demographic. We'll see what happens in the coming weeks after April. We expect to see a little bit of an uptick, but the school, Recreation Department, and Health Department will keep an eye on it and are in constant communication. We have very little in school transmission due in part to parents being quick to let us know when their child has been exposed to someone who is positive. Karen asks if the East Longmeadow schools are participating in the states pooled testing program. Aimee says they are not doing any in school testing. Karen asks if the schools are adopting DESI's new 3-foot quarantine guidelines. Aimee says last week DESI announced that if a student is exposed to someone who is positive, DESI's guidance says you only need to quarantine if you are within 3 feet of someone in the classroom or on the bus for 15 minutes or more or not masked instead of previous guidance saying within 6 feet. The school health community met after this announcement was made and decided as a group they would continue to operate with quarantining individuals within that 6 foot radius for at least another month. There is now a Covid coordinator at the schools. She will track every time there's a positive and graph out who's a close contact in the 3 foot radius and the 6 foot radius and track who tests positive. If we continue to see positive close contacts in the 6 foot radius, we will continue with the 6 foot separation. If not, they'll adopt DESI guidelines using the 3 foot radius.</p> <p>Aimee says she reached out to Boston Children's Hospital to see if they would be interested in doing a presentation on vaccine hesitancy among our 15-18 year olds. Aimee looked at the flu vaccination rates among that age group as the hesitancy in getting the flu vaccine will likely transfer over to the Covid vaccine. There are 685 15-18 year olds in our community. In 2019, 79 of them received a flu vaccine. If Boston Children's Hospital is able to come, we will work with the Library and Recreation Department to advertise the event. If it is successful, other groups can come in to do vaccine hesitancy among other age groups. Karen suggest the reaching out to Vaccine Ambassador Program to come talk to adults since it's not just for the high risk communities. This year, even though the flu vaccine was expected to be required in order for kids to return to in person learning, only 168 out 685. Even though this was thought to be a required vaccine for a long time, the number of 15-18 year olds who got the vaccine only doubled from the previous year, which is</p>

	why Aimee believes Boston Children's Hospital doing a presentation may help some vaccine hesitancy. Vaccines are readily available now with another mass vaccination site opening up in Chicopee. The state also has a homebound program in place for anyone who is homebound and in need of a vaccine.
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Motion to adjourn made by Karen Robitaille and seconded by Sarah Perez McAdoo at 7:26 p.m. **Motion passed 3-0.**

This listing is reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Christine Johnston 5/26/2021
Christine Johnston, Secretary