

DRAFT Chilmark Emergency Meeting of Board of Selectmen & Board of Health

November 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Remote participation: Selectmen: Chairman Bill Rossi, Warren Doty and James Malkin.  
Board of Health: Chairman Katie Carroll, Matt Poole and Jan Buhrman. Health Agent Marina Lent. Others: Town Administrator Tim Carroll, Forrest Filler, Ann Wallace, TTA Chief Retmier, Irene Ziebarth, Virginia Morris, Stephanie Danforth, Barbara Armstrong, Peter Cook, Sally Cook, Rob Hannemann, Bob Reardon, Seth Karlinsky, Margaret Maida, Clark Goff, Andrew Frackman, Katheryn Coe, Virginia Morris, Sueellen Lazarus, , Alysa Emden, Susan Murphy, Dana\_, Scott\_, Keith Emin, Maia Coleman, Mary Breslauer, Doug West, Deb Hancock, Amy Cody, Sarah Nixon, Judith Flanders, Town Accountant Ellen Biskis, Tim DeWitt, Sheila\_ , Harbormaster Ryan Rossi, (42)

At 5:00 PM Chairman Rossi called meeting to order on the Zoom platform.

Matt Poole said since Friday 54 new cases of COVID 19 on Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Poole said the contact tracing is very challenging.

Mr. Doty asked where spike is coming from. Mr. Poole said backyards and shopping on the Cape. Friendships outside of work and then it impacts at the workplace.

Mr. Poole stressed the importance of education & enforcement. Ms. Carroll recommended to hire back Forest Filler to help with site inspections and education. Chairman Rossi said we might be stricter than what the GOV has requested. Ms. Carroll said we need to connect at job sites and send a strong public service announcement. Mr. Poole said "If it's not work or school shut it down" as in shopping trips and shopping and visits. Ms. Carroll urged a decrease to size of pods

Mr. Malkin said we need enforcement with contractors of landscaping and building sites. Mr. Malkin said he is in favor of fines to business owners who have already had a warning. Mr. Malkin stressed we have a big need for translation (Brazilian) services.

Mary Breslauer discussed having policy and helping folks understand but also stressed having a penalty to folks who do not follow I E carrot and stick. Ms. Breslauer said we are in a dangerous place, we have to get back in the groove. There was discussion on how this message will go out. Brazilian Church leaders will make announcements. Public health messaging is hard but we have to work on it. Ms. Carroll asked if anyone had recommendations. Ms. Carroll said MVY Radio was great at our messaging and that all platform we can work we need to launch. Discussion turned to developing talking points that can be communicated.

Mr. Pools said an enforcement ticket is not as attention grabbing as shutting down a site. Mr. Doty recommended and supported town to rehire Forrest Filler to check that sites are in compliance.

Mr. Poole said we are not having problems in food service and retail or schools, the danger is in the trades. Backyard and vehicles and manifest at job sites.

Mr. Malkin said he supports hiring Forrest and hire another person if needed and enlist Mary Breslauer for communication and messaging on this. Forest Filler said we have a phased approach to this 1 warning then shut down and then the restart protocols site specific. Doug West asked if we had contact tracing insight about the Steamship ferry. Mr. Poole said the ferry has not been coming up in the tracing data. Islanders (year-round) we are red on the map now. Mr. Malkin the SSA has reinforced the messaging for safety. Self-interest should drive people to do the right thing.

Chairman Rossi spoke about the messaging platform and asked who is in charge. Mr. Poole said the island health departments are working with Mary Breslauer on that subject. Mr. Cook recommended emphasis on everyone's personal responsibility. Ms. Maida asked how we get this to the folks who don't care to follow the guidelines. Mr. Poole said if there is an employee in vehicle and is found to be a misconduct of our requirements the owner of the business is responsible.

Chairman Rossi asked for summary of what our action on this now.

Mr. Malkin said move with nailing down the talking point memorandum from Mary Breslauer and platforms to spread information.

Ms. Breslauer said there is a lot of work going into this now and we are moving forward.

Ms. Hancock asked why cones have been removed in Menemsha. Harbormaster Rossi said they were moved to aid in taking out curb stops but we will be returning them. Mr. Carroll said it was our plan to remove them after Veterans Day. Ms. Carroll requested that the town keep them in place at the center of the parking lot. Amy Cody recommended to push out message with realtors about behavior. Chairman Rossi said he would be happy to put out a message about that. Ms. Breslauer said we all know what has to be done. Talk to who you know about what needs to be done when you see action.

Bob Reardon stressed importance of testing messaging. Ms. Buhrman said testing is great but there is no such thing as testing out of quarantine. Mr. Malkin said we are having influx of students and families coming for Thanksgiving. There was discussion of the importance of getting tested for COVID 19 before traveling or as soon as you arrive here self-isolating for 1 week or till you get your results. Mr. Poole said the Vineyard Gazette OP-Ed was very good about college students returning and how they can get together with friends; with test and isolation till negative results.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Rossi adjourned meeting.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase