

**Worksite Safety and Health Committee**  
**June 4, 2020**

Present: Assistant to Selectmen Maria Lucarelli, Maintenance Supervisor Tom Fitzgerald, Teacher Representative Deb Minor, Director of Health and Emergency Management Deputy Lisa Fasulo, Sarah Foley from Visiting Nurses, Essex Elementary School Principal Jennifer Tousignant, Office Paul Kenefick, Fire Marshal John Planas, CIRMA Risk Management Consultant Stephen Pendl, and Fire Chief Aron Schumacher.

Lisa Fasulo called the meeting to order at 7:49 a.m.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion** was made by John Planas to approve the agenda. Mary Ellen Barnes seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

**Motion** was made by Deb Minor to approve the March 5, 2020. Lisa Fasulo seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

**Communications and Correspondence:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Deb Minor had nothing new to report.

Principal Jennifer Tousignant reported the school recently installed a new swing set and other summer capital projects will be starting very soon; Tom Fitzgerald is coordinating these projects. Next week Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 2 pm, parents will be allowed to pick up student belongings and student material. The school anticipates a lot of activity in the front circle. The school would appreciate police presence, if they are available.

Park and Recreation Director and Social Services Coordinator Mary Ellen Barnes inquired whether the school lunch program would continue through summer. Jennifer did not know the answer but stated that she would find out and let Mary Ellen and Lisa know the status. Mary Ellen reported that social services still has gift cards which are being distributed. Park and Recreation is not having summer camp, but they are assisting with scholarships and referring those who would qualify to Bushy Hill Camp.

Concerts are still being planned and anticipated to start the second week in July and will be held safely and within the guidelines.

Mary Ellen reported that a re-open Essex Committee was formed and consists of several members from the police, health, fire, selectmen's office, etc. The Essex Town Hall is planning on re-opening on July 22 with limited access and will be following all guidelines. The safety of employees and visitors is priority.

The basketball and baseball fields are closed, the dog parks are closed, the playgrounds are closed, but tennis is allowed within guidelines.

Jennifer mentioned that the school and the grounds are closed. It is difficult to manage and keep people off the grounds and fields.

Health Director & Deputy Emergency Management Director Lisa Fasulo reported the Governor is releasing Phase 2 guidance, expected to be released on Friday or Saturday. There was discussion that summer school is starting on July 6. There was further discussion that 25 people can now get together outdoors.

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Officer Paul Kenefick reported that the marine patrol boat is back on the water and will be going out on weekdays as well as weekends this year.

Officer Kenefick also reported that as restrictions are beginning to lighten up, they are seeing more congregating and they did have to do some enforcement at the basketball court. There was discussion that there are reports of speeders and the flashing speed signs do take photographs.

Officer Kenefick reported there have been several requests for car parades. Trooper Mark Roberts is working on putting together an active aggressor training for Town employees in hopes the training can take place sometime in the fall.

Visiting Nurse Sarah Foley reported they are trying to get a supply of PPE in order to prepare for an anticipated influx of COVID in the fall. Sarah reported there are some local woman who have donated homemade masks which are worn over surgical masks. Sarah has been emailing vendors for vaccines in the fall. They are increasing their flu vaccine orders and they are also trying to get the COVID vaccine. They have been ordering syringes in preparation for the winter. They are trying to obtain disinfectant, wipes, and gloves which they are finding harder to come by. There are concerns that people are not wearing masks out in public. But mostly the community is doing very well, there are still a few that are not being safe.

Lisa inquired how the VNA finds out if a patient is COVID positive. Sarah reported that they try to work with the referral sources in order to make sure the patient is not positive.

Essex Elementary School Maintenance Supervisor Tom Fitzgerald reported he is trying his best to have enough PPE for all the workers. They are disinfecting everything they can. The good news is there are not a lot of people in the building. Tom is trying to get enough PPE for the fall. Lisa mentioned that she has a supply of shields for the school and she would coordinate with Tom in getting supplies to him before the school started.

There was discussion that the Red Cross is still holding blood drives at the school and one was scheduled for Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Aron Schumacher stated if the Town would like representation from the fire department to attend the re-opening Essex committee, to please let him know and he would find a member to attend. Aron reported they are slowly re-opening the fire house while wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Aron reported the fire department has a supply of PPE and they can certainly share with others if there is a necessity to do so.

Stephen Pendl from CIRMA reported they have information and resources the Town could use, and they also have a COVID home page with a ton of information. Stephen reported they are not holding any large group trainings, but there are many online webinars and online trainings. There was discussion of whether CIRMA had any sensitivity training and stigma trainings, for instance, the stigma people feel or are associated with when someone has tested positive for COVID as an example. Stephen reported he would bring this training topic suggestion to the next staff meeting and if a sensitivity training is developed, Essex could be the first to participate in the training.

Fire Marshal John Planas reported the opening of the restaurants is going smoothly and many restaurants are creating additional outside seating, some are even setting up self-made tents, etc. John asked for everyone to reach out to John if you see a makeshift tent anywhere. John needs to make sure they are to code and following the guidelines.

John reported the Town recently submitted two grants. One is for self-contained breathing apparatus equipment for the Fire Department. The other grant is for an updated drone which has more capabilities. This new drone could even take a person's temperature of a person from a distance and can fly as far as 10 miles and can be in the air for an hour.

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John is working on entering personnel data into the ESO Fire Incident Reporting system. The data is on all emergency personnel and keeping and updating immunization records of members. Updating these records is more important now due to COVID. This can track any exposure to fire fighters and EMS personnel.

John reported that inspections are going to start back up again. The annual fire inspections and residential inspections are anticipated to resume within the next week or two. Owners and landlords will be notified.

Building and Grounds Superintendent Andrew Harrington reported he has ordered floor stickers for social distancing, sanitizer, and he has purchased rags and disinfectants to aid in the upcoming re-opening the building to the public. There will be a significant increase in cleaning the Town Hall building when the building re-opens to the public, especially in the public restrooms.

Lisa Fasulo reported the contact tracing initiative will become even more difficult when the Governor opens the state. The health department has no way to do an extensive contact tracing when things open.

Lisa believes that when the state opens, we will see more cases in Town and our region. Lisa reported the state is anticipating and preparing for mass vaccination clinics for flu in the early fall. It is anticipated that the clinics are going to need more PPE.

Lisa also reported that hurricane season started on Monday, June 1.

**Motion** was made by Sarah Foley to adjourn at 8:15 a.m. Lisa Fasulo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Lucarelli