

**PLYMPTON BOARD OF HEALTH OPEN MEETING NOTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

**5:00 P.M. DEBORAH SAMPSON MEETING ROOM**

Present: Arthur Morin, Jr., Chairman, Harry Weikel, Jr., Treasurer, Brad Cronin, Clerk, Kevin Forgue, Health Agent, Scott Sauchuk, Fire Chief Steve Silva, Captain Cheryl Davis, Plympton Fire Department

**Chief Silva:** Fire Department presentation re: replacing VNA. Fire Department Community Paramedicine Program. The Fire Department started looking at community paramedicine with other neighboring towns affected by the Cape Cod VNA decision not to cover off-Cape towns. There are three levels of community paramedicine authorized by DPH. Mobile Integrated Health is very expensive and won't work here. Community paramedicine model fits our community. Providing the service to residents & businesses at no real additional cost to the town. OEMS recognizes local BOHs. We need support of local Board of Health to sign off on concept. We can tailor it to our community. This does not replace a public health nurse if the Board of Health wants to have one. This augments or replaces public health nurse and VNA – whichever is needed.

**Captain Davis:** Presents handout of definition of a community EMS program. The application takes 30 days. We can do MAVEN tracking, COVID testing & screening, mobile testing sites or home visits, flu shots, home safety & wellness visits, fall prevention, medication pickups and education. Can go to CVS & pick up & deliver prescriptions and explain to resident, can organize pills, can teach how to read food labels, explain sharps awareness & how to dispose properly when containers are full. In the future can do community NARCAN training, car seat installation, early intervention at schools, etc.

**Chief Silva:** The application is no cost to the town and has a minimal startup cost. Tasks to be performed by Fire Captain and duty crew. Can handle COVID positive results quickly. Plymouth County CARES act covers the 27 towns. We can be reimbursed for COVID related expenses. Ends October 1. The Fire Dept would like the BOH to sign off on the application. BOH will oversee the program. Hospital in Plymouth and Plympton Fire Department need to sign off as well.

**Brad Cronin:** This came about because of COVID and the Cape Cod VNA's decision not to cover south shore towns. From a public health standpoint the community would benefit. There are many things we don't currently do. Using current employees is a great benefit. What is the BOH oversight?

**Chief Silva:** As the program grows or shrinks we will work together with the BOH to assess needs and to be an advocate for the elderly: questions such as "who do I call if I don't have fuel; where do I go for help"? etc.

**Harry Weikel:** My only concern is the bottom line for the taxpayer.

**Chief Silva:** 99% of the equipment we already have. All expenses are reimbursable. Start up costs and application fee is nothing. There are no expenses to the town.

**Art Morin:** What happens when the Fire Department command structure changes in the future? We are comfortable under your watch, but how do we make sure this isn't an empire builder situation that ends up costing the town a lot of money?

**Chief Silva:** It is a new role for the fire department, but that's why there is a signature process and oversight is joint with the EMS and BOH, so there are checks & balances.

**Harry Weikel:** Where would the documentation fall? Fire Department or Board of Health?

**Chief Silva:** Our EMS software reporting system currently tracks ambulance runs and billing. It can expand to any reports that the BOH may need. Fire Department already tracks its own people and contacts for COVID with this software.

**Kevin Forgue:** What size population does this work with?

**Chief Silva:** The program is scalable. At this point, our population should not grow that much, so it will remain at the same level.

**Harry Weikel:** Plympton would not outgrow this?

**Chief Silva:** no.

**Brad Cronin:** This may open up additional funding?

**Chief Silva:** Yes, grant programs like to see departments working together.

Motion made to have the Chairman sign the paperwork tomorrow. Votes 3-0 to go ahead.

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Large Event Permit – Sauchuk Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch

**Art Morin:** Since we met last, we sent your submission to Ron O'Connor at DPH. We have further guidance on corn mazes. Have you read the newest Outdoor Activities protocol from the DPH?

**Scott Sauchuk:** That is the guidance I am using.

**Art Morin:** Regarding the modifications of 25 people in any area or pit? You are proposing to let in 50 people every 15 minutes and going thru this protocol, you need to let 25 people in and then stop until people leave.

**Scott Sauchuk:** If we have multiple groups on the multiple jumping pillows, we can have 2 groups of 25 people separated by 20 feet.

**Harry Weikel:** So you can have 25 people at one time and then after people leave, you can add others.

**Brad Cronin:** what is your breakdown of people inside that maze?

**Scott Sauchuk:** 200 people if you go by the guidance on pick your own activities. We have an 8 acre corn maze.



**Art Morin:** All protocols come from DPH. They talk about being socially distant. How can you keep people socially distant if there are 200 people in a corn maze? How do you keep them from turning around?

**Scott Sauchuk:** People will briefly approach within 6 feet of each other, they are wearing masks. It's not a lot of people in a corn maze.

**Kevin Forgue:** How do you maintain social distancing in the corn maze?

**Art Morin:** Large Event protocol says more than one group of 25 may participate at one time if adequate social distancing and group separation can be maintained. Group activities where social distancing cannot be maintained are limited to a single reservation group.

**Brad Cronin:** The limit is 200 for the corn maze. What is the plan for entrance and exit? Is there a time to start and end that?

**Scott Sauchuk:** I had not proposed a control entry and exit time for the corn maze. The corn maze itself is in the open air and is huge. There are 3 miles of trail. 200 people in 3 miles is plenty of space, not going to have people on top of each other.

**Brad Cronin:** How long are people in the maze?

**Scott Sauchuk:** It takes at least one hour to go through the maze. We let in one group a minute. The kiddie maze takes 15 minutes. The paths are a minimum of six feet wide.

**Brad Cronin:** In a normal year, how many are in the maze at one time?

**Scott Sauchuk:** One thousand people.

**Harry Weikel:** What are the dimensions of the jumping pillows?

**Scott Sauchuk:** 35 feet by 70 feet.

**Art Morin:** Is the playground the wooden structure on the map?

**Scott Sauchuk:** Yes.

**Art Morin:** How can you social distance kids in the playground?

**Brad Cronin:** What is the capacity for the playground?

**Scott Sauchuk:** I don't have the capacity - it is new. There is guidance on playgrounds I could look up.

**Brad Cronin:** When people go through maze it's typically a group? 5 or 10?

**Scott Sauchuk:** The average is 3 or 4 - a family.

**Brad Cronin:** As they go through, are there chokepoints in there where people back up?

**Scott Sauchuk:** Sometimes they go around in circles. We have staff in there to help them if they get lost.

**Brad Cronin:** Maybe that could be a way to keep separation, having staff at various points keeping groups apart.

**Scott Sauchuk:** We plan to have staff monitoring the maze to prevent people from congregating. We will have new training for staff.

**Harry Weikel:** What is the average age of your staff?

**Scott Sauchuk:** We have 20 adults and a bunch of high school kids 16 or 17. No food this year, so we are down 10 adults who usually do the cooking.

**Harry Weikel:** I am concerned about your younger staff dealing with an adult who doesn't want to wear a mask or social distance.

**Scott Sauchuk:** That's definitely going to happen. I have encountered anti mask people in the farm stand and they can be very belligerent, but my instruction to staff is to ask person to put on mask. If they don't comply, don't escalate the situation, just explain the rules. We are not going to be trying to kick people out for not wearing masks

**Art Morin:** You are not? That is a major problem.

**Scott Sauchuk:** Who can do that? Should we call police?

**Harry Weikel:** You can do it, you are the manager of the event. There has to be somebody who takes responsibility for this other than this Board.

**Scott Sauchuk:** OK. They are going to say I'm not within 6 feet of anyone why do I have to wear a mask, or I have a medical condition.

**Art Morin:** The Board wants to be sure that everyone wears masks.

**Scott Sauchuk:** I don't want my kids to enforce the mask rule with adults. They can point it out and contact one of our adult workers. Every worker has a radio.

**Harry Weikel:** In a normal situation using teenagers is generally not a problem but this isn't a normal situation and there are going to be confrontations.

**Scott Sauchuk:** I would say that there are always difficult people who want to break through the corn stalks, pick corn and violate any number of rules it happens all the time. Teenagers are not the best people to enforce rules.

**Harry Weikel:** What information are you giving ticket buyers?

**Scott Sauchuk:** There is a statement online before they buy the ticket they have to acknowledge masks are being required.

**Harry Weikel:** This gives you the authority to oversee masks being required and used.

**Scott Sauchuk:** We will have to figure out who will deal with that.

**Art Morin:** Requiring face coverings for guests and all employees is in the state protocol. That is the guidance from the state. When you are on the property you have to have a mask.

**Harry Weikel:** Do you plan to have a police detail on site?

**Scott Sauchuk:** No, I wasn't planning on that this year. I'm not opposed especially on busy days. It's more for traffic control.

**Harry Weikel:** I'm thinking about a police detail on site for any problems that arise.

**Brad Cronin:** Will they enforce a mask mandate? You need to work out with the Police Department what they are willing to do, use them as a backup.

**Kevin Forge:** what time slots are you selling the tickets for?

**Scott Sauchuk:** One hour entry time slots for tickets. An hour window to come. 200 per time slot seven time slots per day.

**Art Morin:** How much signage do you have about keeping 6 feet apart, social distancing, etc.?

**Scott Sauchuk:** We have 6 social distancing signs and other signs around.

**Art Morin:** That doesn't seem to be enough for the area. I think the protocol talks about two before entrance to corn maze, some on the field and on some of the various other areas. Have you established patterns for traffic flow? A lot of this is on you to come up with the plans and sanitizing at least daily and hand sanitizer and wash stations throughout the area. That's all in the protocol.

**Scott Sauchuk:** All that's spelled out in the information I submitted to you.

**Harry Weikel:** What food vendors are you dealing with?

**Scott Sauchuk:** We have two.

**Cathy Ferguson:** Two food trucks have applied for mobile food permits to work at the corn maze. They are the two who had permits in previous years.

**Brad Cronin:** Out of the people who typically show up what's the percentage that go through the maze?

**Scott Sauchuk:** Two thirds go through the maze, I think if I follow the state guidelines and document the cleaning, etc. I should be ok.

**Brad Cronin:** Having a written plan and documenting everything should be good. Area wise the corn maze meets the large event protocols. You need methods in place to make sure 200 people in the maze are separated and not clustered together. Not a congestion issues just how to keep them apart.

**Scott Sauchuk:** Congregating does not really happen in the maze, there's a bridge you can look down into the maze, corn cops can look down and see what's happening.

**Harry Weikel:** How are you going to control that 200 doesn't become 230 or 250?

**Scott Sauchuk:** I don't have a plan for that. We could accommodate 200 in there if it's all spaced correctly.

**Harry Weikel:** I would like to see you document the 200 people that go in and have they documented going in and out so that 200 is the maximum. Communicate with each worker so they know how many are in and when new people can be let in.



**Art Morin:** In your submission to us you have a statement that attractions that attract a lot of people will be eliminated such as the pig races, candy cannon, special events, etc. Will the playground be in this group?

**Scott Sauchuk:** There are little things like tetherball and the big rocking chair. There are games that we space out. I didn't put all those down. I have no experience with the playground as it wasn't there last year. I was planning on having the playground available. The staff will ask them to move if there's too many people. I will have to play it by ear. We have 58 employees. It won't be unsupervised.

**Kevin Forgue:** Extend the wait time between groups in the maze so they don't bump into each other. 5 minutes between each group going in?

**Scott Sauchuk:** 5 minutes will work -- entry at 5 minute intervals.

**Art Morin:** I would suggest that you err on the side of caution; we don't want to be at the epicenter of a COVID event.

**Scott Sauchuk:** I think I am. I'm rounding down the numbers instead of up. Just trying to make it through the season. We may not get anywhere near the amount of people we expect. All tickets will be sold on line ahead of time so we will have contact tracing information if needed. Tickets only sold one week in advance, so it's just a week to week thing.

Motion to approve Large Event Permit with the following stipulations: (1) There will be a police detail while the Event is open; (2) only 200 people allowed in the maze at one time with entry staggered at 5 minute intervals. Voted 3-0 to approve.

What is a Community EMS program?

Community EMS is the newest branch of Emergency Medical Services. It is regulated through the Department of Public Health and 105 CMR 173 and is defined as:

A program operated by the local public health jurisdiction's primary ambulance service and which utilizes the primary ambulance services EMS personnel to provide community outreach and assistance in order to advance illness or injury prevention within the local jurisdiction.

What does it look like for Plympton?

Immediate:

- MAVEN
- COVID Testing/Screening
- Flu Shots
- Home Safety and Wellness Visits
- Falls Prevention
- Medication pick- ups and education
- Health Promotion
- FEMA Readiness
- Sharps Awareness

Future:

- Community Narcan and First Aid Training
- Car Seat installation and checks
- Behavioral Health Home and Community Referrals

Cost:

State Application is Free

Minimal Start- up cost-medical grade refrigerator, scale, body composition analyzer

Many of the home visits can be completed by the duty crew with no increased payroll costs.