



CITY OF HALLOWELL

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Hallowell Board of Health Meeting Minutes March 31, 2020

Officials in Attendance: Drs. Scott Schiff-Slater and Sid Sewall; Nate Rudy

Agenda: **Short Term Rentals; Safety of Public Spaces; Safety of City Buildings and Exposure from Professional Services**

This Board of Health is an official City entity, formed under Maine state statute **Title 22 Section 453. Local board of health**, which states:

Any municipality may appoint, in addition to the local health officer, a board of health consisting of 3 members besides the local health officer, one of whom shall be a physician if available in the community, and one a woman. When first appointed members of the board shall be appointed one for one year, one for 2 years and one for 3 years. Subsequent appointments shall be for 3-year terms.

The local health officer shall be secretary ex officio of said board and keep a record of all proceedings. The local board of health shall constitute an advisory body to the local health officer.

Short Term Rentals – participants recommended that short term rentals be limited or curtailed in Hallowell due to the potential for person to person transfer of Coronavirus from guests travelling to Hallowell from other places and living quarters with shared bathrooms and gathering spaces. The Health Officer requested that if the group felt that the City should take immediate action, a strong recommendation to Council was necessary, preferably in writing.

(note: the Governor of Maine issued a stay-at-home order the next day, April 1, which addressed some of the concerns raised at this meeting. Further state-wide limitations on short term rentals and other lodging were announced on April 3.)

Safety of Public Spaces – participants felt that the emotional and physical health benefits of keeping public spaces open outweighed the potential risk of person-to-person transmission of Coronavirus. However, it was noted that people are not observing physical distancing recommendations, and that the City could make a stronger recommendation in its messaging.

Safety of City Buildings and Exposure from Professional Services – Health Officer requested guidance on how to reduce potential virus exposure for staff, service providers, and the public from professional service visits to City buildings, including mail and package deliveries,

infrastructure service and maintenance, and specifically a request from the Hallowell Food Bank to have a hand-washing sink installed in its space at the Second Street Fire Station.

The Board recommended a standard protocol for containment, possibly to include:

- That the service provider call ahead to schedule an appointment at a time that minimized staff contact in the work area.
- That service providers wear protective equipment such as gloves and masks.
- That the service providers check their health and temperature before coming into a City building, and only come into a building if they are not symptomatic of any illness.
- That City staff check their health and temperature before coming into a City building, and only report to work if they are not symptomatic of any illness.