

**MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
March 12, 2020**

PRESENT: Thomas Driscoll (Chair), Matt Newman (Clerk), Gary Fine (Member), Lisa Cullity (Health Agent, Sheila Landy (Secretary), Rob Adams (Reporter) and Dan Trabucco (Selectman).

CHAIR DRISCOLL OPENED THE MEETING AT 5:00 PM AND READ THE STATEMENT REGARDING AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING

5:00pm BOARD ACTION ITEM – DISCUSSION OF EMS PLAN AS PRESENTED BY PEMA AND POSSIBLE VOTE REGARDING RECOMMENDED ACTIONS THAT ARISE OR ANY OTHER ACTION.

The Chair called this Emergency meeting under MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 18 to discuss the corona virus and the towns response. Driscoll asked the Health Agent to update the public on the how we are working to slow or stop the spread of Corona. The Agent went over the message being pushed in local media. Personal hygiene (frequent hand washing, do not touch face or eyes), how to stay well, what to do if you do not feel well and what to do if you think you have Corona. The state is beginning weekly conference calls with local Boards of Health to inform and collect information.

Chair Driscoll reiterated the importance of personal hygiene and added MIT Medical is advising social distancing. He explained social distancing is limiting the amount of people you are around at functions or meetings. To slow the spread of the virus and not overwhelm our Healthcare system, Driscoll is recommending practicing social distancing in the Town of Pembroke. Social distancing as proven to be a way to slow the spread of the virus. He stated people can have the virus, not exhibit any symptoms and still be contagious. Newman asked if this a new method. Driscoll stated it was utilized during the Spanish Flu in 1818-1819 and was helpful. Fine asked if Driscoll was requiring everyone to social distance or was it a recommendation? Driscoll said it was a recommendation and he was trying to be proactive. This would not be a permanent recommendation. How long it stays in effect depends on the track of the Corona virus.

Chair Driscoll made a motion to suggest to the public that they practice social distancing in large crowds or congregations to slow the escalation of the virus and to prevent the overload of the Healthcare System. Newman seconded the motion. Fine amended the motion to have the Health Agent to draft some guidelines as a suggestion to the residents of Pembroke. Matt seconded the motion. All were in favor of the amendment. The Board then unanimously voted for the motion as amended.

Newman made a motion to adjourn at 5:20 p.m., Fine seconded, and all were in favor.

Thomas Driscoll
Chair