

CART meeting minutes from 3/3/2022

Melissa Yosua-Davis called the meeting to order at 3:38 pm.

Present: Melissa Yosua-Davis, David Hill, Michael Porter, Leila Bisharat, Matt Ridgway, Donna Damon, and Jenny Hackel.

Acceptance of minutes of January and February: David Hill moved to accept, Michael Porter seconded and the rest agreed the minutes were acceptable without changes.

Announcements:

1. The Universal mask mandate, which is still in place until March 18th, will likely be lifted sometime later this month after the return from spring break depending on case counts at that time. The Maine CDC is encouraging testing after vacation/ spring break. Masking will remain a required standard of practice as per CDC protocols in reducing the spread of Covid-19.

In the event we can change to a “masks optional” program, keep in mind that our population can never be 100% vaccinated and there are very young or vulnerable family members who may get very sick if they catch the virus. The staff and students have all been great about using masks. Call Ann Kirkpatrick if questions.

2. Erika shared information from the Yarmouth public schools that they have a plan to move to “masks optional” on March 7th both in the classroom and on the buses. Chebeague residents use the Yarmouth schools. Any questions, call the YSD superintendent.
3. Matt reported that as of 3/18 when the CDC mask mandate expires, the staff is prepared that people may not continue to wear masks and they are okay with it. Matt also reported that he has been in touch with Glen from the Chebeague Inn and there is a busy summer wedding schedule coming. Masks signs are still in the freight shed on the dock at Cousins Island.
4. Melissa Yosua-Davis spoke about the county transmission rate data and how anyone can google their county to see the current rate data. The Mills administration has moved to allowing more local control based on local transmission data. This is what will allow school committees greater discretion to shift their policies based on local data going forward.
5. Jenny Hackel announced that she has 8 students from the University of Southern Maine Community Health Nursing class until April 7, and asked the CART team if they see an urgent need for a health survey on Chebeague. While it was agreed that it was great to have the students doing projects, creating, delivering and analyzing a survey was not needed at this time.

6. Leila noted we need to keep our eye on the Biden administrations actions. The new “administer and treat” act will allow people to go to a pharmacy and get a test, and if the test is positive get the oral treatment.
7. Leila also reported that the Recompense fund is ready to take grant applications between now and April 30th. Applications can be found on-line at <https://www.recompensefund.com/grants-awards> Also, the Recompense Fund board has people ready to help applicants write a good grant and get feedback on a draft if applied for before April 14th.
8. All non-profits have received an invitation to join the Maine non-profit association. There is a webinar on how to create or strengthen your board. Mary, Carol, Jill Whitman are working on this. Matt noted that his wife Carrie works with non-profits and fundraising.
9. Melissa noted that the Church fund that accepted the Recompense grant for the testing team has some funds remaining that could be used for buying more masks. KN95’s are much better than the surgical masks or cloth masks.
10. Melissa also asked on behalf of Erika if there would be any more vaccinating on Chebeague, as the vaccine rate for our zip code, 04017, is only 84%, and this includes seasonal visitors. Hannifords can offer Covid vaccines now; call ahead for appointment.
11. Jenny will speak with Eliza Jane and Erika about updating communications as mask mandates change.
12. Erika and Eliza are planning Pie Day on the even of Pi Day, (Pi Day being 3/14) for Sunday 3/13 from 2-3:30 to celebrate how people on the island worked together to put up signs, organize and support the testing team, create positive feelings despite the pandemic stress, run the vaccine clinics, and keep the island safe. We should celebrate we did not have a death from an outbreak on the island.
13. Melissa Yosua-Davis reminded people that we are still having to live with Covid even though the count is declining because there are children that still need to be vaccinated, there are long haulers, and there are the immunocompromised for which Covid remains a serious threat or an ongoing problem. It is good for everyone to continue to be kind and compassionate.
14. The next CART meeting date was discussed, and everyone agreed we do not need to meet more than once a month. The meetings will be the first Thursday of each month at 3 pm instead of 3:30. Therefore the next meeting is Thursday April 7th at 3pm on the town zoom link.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Hackel