Advisory #6

Thursday, March 19, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County since yesterday’s report of 5 confirmed cases. We ask that you continue to monitor www.kingstonmass.org for news from Kingston’s Emergency Management Team. We have provided links to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the Town’s website.

The Town of Kingston offers residents the use of our Blackboard Connect service, our town-resident notification system. This service allows leaders to send voice messages to residents and business within minutes with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as emergencies and local community matters. The Connect service is used to supplement our current communication plans and augment public safety and first responder services. If you are not currently signed up to receive Blackboard Connect updates, please visit: www.kingstonmawebportal.bbcportal.com/.

Kingston’s Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town’s ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As mentioned in yesterday’s “Advisory #5,” all home inspections conducted by the Kingston Fire Department were temporarily put on hold as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier today the Kingston Fire Department successfully conducted their first virtual inspection that satisfies their requirements, while also minimizing the risk of exposure for their staff. The temporary procedures that have been put in place will allow for those who are in the process of buying and selling homes in Kingston to proceed without interruption. The department will communicate the temporary process to applicants who have contacted them.

In related news, the Kingston Fire Department recently started a Facebook page to enhance communications with residents. If you would like to follow the Kingston Fire Department on Facebook, please “Like” Kingston Fire & Emergency Management.

Members of the Kingston Emergency Management Team participated in this afternoon’s posted Board of Health meeting. We discussed the guidelines that have been given by Governor Baker, and the enforcement of those directives. All Kingston businesses that involve physical contact with customers, not allowing for the recommended 6’ social distancing guidelines, have been ordered to close effective Friday, March 20, 2020 at 12:00 PM. This includes hair salons, nail salons, massage and facial care parlors. Additional close orders have been issued to gyms, health clubs, workout facilities, tanning and spraying facilities. With written permission from the Kingston Board of Health, these businesses may reopen on March 30, 2020. At
that time, it may also be determined that the order to close will be extended beyond March 30th. This order
does not apply to medical facilities, doctors’ offices, or doctor prescribed physical therapy services. Child
care centers have been given close orders, effective today; however, they may remain open to care for the
children of Kingston’s first responders, medical care workers, and others who are working on the “front
lines” of this pandemic.

After receiving a recommendation from Kingston’s Animal Control Officer, the Chief of Police, and the Fire
Chief, and in collaboration with the Friends of Kingston Dogs and Kingston’s Emergency Management
Team, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously (4-0-0) at today’s posted 12:00 PM meeting, to close the
Boneyard Dog Park effective immediately. The park will remain closed until further notice. While we
recognize that the Boneyard provides residents with a venue to exercise their dogs, the decision to close the
park was made in an effort to promote social distancing and bring consistency to park closures throughout
the Town of Kingston.

Yesterday afternoon PACTV aired a live COVID-19 Update. State Rep. Kathy LaNatra, Vice Chair of the
Board of Selectmen and President of the Friends of the Kingston Council on Aging, Elaine Fiore, Director of
Elder Affairs, Paula Rossi-Clapp, and I sat with Julie Thompson, Executive Director to discuss Kingston’s
response to the ongoing pandemic and what services are available to residents. The update will be airing on
Kingston’s government channels (Comcast 15 and Verizon 42) and online at www.pactv.org.

Beginning tomorrow, March 20, 2020, “grab and go” lunches will be available for Silver Lake Regional
School District families who are eligible to receive free or reduced meals and who have completed the
survey provided by SLRSD, or have called into the Food Services Director. If you qualify but did not
complete the survey and would like a lunch for your child, please call Megan Ahrenholz at 781-582-3556.

To ensure the safety of residents and Town employees, the Kingston Town House will be fully staffed but
closed to the public until further notice. There is a drop-off box with a mail slot located to the right of the
entry door at the Town House. This is typically used for payments and will now be utilized for any materials
that you wish to deliver. Please label your documents with the intended department and we will make sure
the appropriate person receives the information. If you have any questions, please call or email the
appropriate department, board, or committee. Contact information can be found on the Town’s website,
www.kingstonmass.org. Staff will be available via phone and email.

Additional information regarding building closures is as follows:

Kingston Council on Aging – Group programs are cancelled until further notice. The office will be staffed
for outreach services, answer phones, and support transportation requests.

Kingston’s Fire Department – Kingston’s fire stations are closed to public access, unless you have a medical
or other emergency. If you have any business to conduct, please call 781-585-0532. As always, in the event
of a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.

Kingston Public Library – The Library is closed to the public until further notice. A list of their online
services and offerings can be found at www.kingstonpubliclibrary.org.

The Adams Center – The Adams center is closed to the public until further notice. All programs are
suspended until future notice.

Recreation – Gray’s Beach Park, the Reed Community Center and surrounding outside properties, and the
Opachinski Athletic Complex are closed to the public until further notice, and programming at the Faunce
School is suspended until further notice.

The Boneyard Dog Park – The Boneyard Dog Park is closed to the public until further notice.
Schools – All schools are currently closed until Monday, April 6, 2020. Per the request of the SLRSD towns, all playgrounds and athletic fields are closed due to social distancing and surface area contamination concerns until further notice. This includes playgrounds on all school campuses.

If you or someone you know requires additional support in the coming weeks, please do not hesitate to call the appropriate contact person below:

Elderly Services & Residents with Disabilities: Paula Rossi-Clapp, Director of Elder Affairs / 781-585-0511
EMS: Mark Douglass, Fire Chief and Adam Hatch, Deputy Fire Chief / 781-585-0532
General Information: Thomas Calter / 508-717-1483
Board of Health: Arthur Boyle / 781-585-0503

For All Medical Emergencies Call 9-1-1

We will be checking voicemails regularly and will work diligently to direct residents to the appropriate resources as quickly as possible. The daily operations within the Town of Kingston are still up and running.

Efforts to respond to and contain COVID-19 are rapidly changing, but our priority is to serve and support Kingston residents, employees, and businesses through the continuity of basic services and operations. We acknowledge that COVID-19 will significantly impact the lives of all those in our community, but we ask that you take a thoughtful and measured approach to keeping yourselves, your families, and your neighbors safe by following the news and recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, both on the Kingston Board of Health website.

We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman
Board of Selectmen