

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
May 08, 2024**

Board Members Present: Sheila Litchfield, Susan Gruen, Gene Garland -Chair, Cindie Garland - Interim Board Clerk, Randy Crochier and Jasmine Ward – CPHS/Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCoG) representative. Alana Gerjuory – Communities that Care Coalition (CTC).

0900 Meeting Called to Order by Gene Garland

REVIEW AGENDA

- Susan requested to add the 3 Ledges Road discussion to the 5/8 Agenda.
- Sheila requested to add Review Agenda to the monthly Agenda and the other business comment be listed before the Adjournment heading and public comment.
- Sheila also suggested to add to the other business the stipends and board member composition to the 5/8 Agenda.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

- April 10, 2024 and April 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Sheila moved to accept the minutes with corrections as written. Ayes: Susan, Sheila, and Gene.

PUBLIC HEARING

- The Chair moved to open the public hearing regarding revisions to the Local Septic Regulations in Heath.
 - Sheila Seconded
 - Susan, Sheila, Gene “Aye”

- The Chair opened the hearing by reading the hearing notice into the record:

**Town of Heath Board of Health
Public Hearing Notice
Revised Septic Regulations**

The Heath Board of Health will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 0910. For the purpose of discussing revisions to the Town’s Septic regulations. This hearing will be held via Zoom.

The Chair should establish the ground rules:

- Online, we will record your name.
- Only person speaking at a time.
- All discussion goes through the Chair.
- When addressing the Board, please identify by name and address as well as any professional affiliation you may have that may impact your comments.

- Please be considerate of those persons speaking, whether you agree or disagree with them, and refrain from commenting out of turn.
- Thank you for your cooperation and participation

The Chair asked the board members to confirm the notice was published and posted as required by law. Randy stated the notice was posted multiple times.

- Health Agent – read in pertinent facts and reason for proposed regulations. This regulation updates the 2013 regulation. Health Agents do not collect money on the site of the inspection. One of the updates include the use of Effluent Filters: A septic tank outlet filter approved by Department of Environmental Protection shall be installed on all new septic tanks whether for new construction or upgrade of an existing system. If an existing tank is to be used in a repaired system, an effluent filter shall be installed or retrofitted, and if tank access and construction do not allow, a separate effluent filter chamber shall be utilized in the treatment train.
- Chair asked if any interested parties in favor should now be allowed to speak and any interested parties in not in favor should now be allowed to speak – Susan asked about the ownership of the fines. Randy stated that the collected fines go to the Town of Heath go into the general fund. The fee is scheduled to change on July 1, 2024.
- The Chair motioned to close the “evidentiary portion of the hearing”.
 - Sheila Second
 - Susan, Sheila, Gene “Aye”

The Chair motioned to move that the Heath Board of Health adopt the revisions to the local Septic Regulations effective July 1, 2024

- Sheila Second
- Susan, Sheila, Gene “Aye”

The Chair motioned to close the public hearing regarding revisions to the Local Septic Regulations in Heath.

- Sheila Second
- Sheila, Susan, Gene “Aye”

- The Chair moved to open the public hearing regarding Local Tobacco Regulations in Heath.
 - Sheila Second
 - Susan, Sheila, Gene “Aye”

- The Chair opened the hearing by reading the hearing notice into the record:

**Town of Heath Board of Health
Public Hearing Notice**

Local Tobacco Control Regulations

The Heath Board of Health will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 0920. For the purpose of adoption of local Tobacco Control regulations in Heath. This hearing will be held via Zoom.

The Chair asked the board members to confirm the notice was published and posted as required by law. Randy stated the notice was posted.

- Health Agent – read in pertinent facts and reason for proposed regulations. The State of Massachusetts updated their regulation July 2020. The fines to the retailers have increased. If a retailer is fined multiple times, the Town has the right to prohibit the sale of tobacco products. Doesn't affect Heath right now. Randy said it is good to have a regulation in place before a business starts to sell tobacco products. Ilana stated it is a prevention regulation. Ilana will provide the handout "Nicotine Free Future for Youth" to Susan so it can be distributed at the Town of Heath ATM. She added that even though tobacco usage has decreased, vaping with the younger generation has increased.
- Chair asked if any interested parties in favor should now be allowed to speak and any interested parties in not in favor should now be allowed to speak. Randy stated the fines collected go to the Town. The enforcement is driven by the Health Agents at public events if there is not enough law enforcement. Sheila asked Randy how this regulation would affect the Heath Fair, he said vaping is illegal in most public places regardless of the owner.
- The Chair motioned to close the "evidentiary portion of the hearing".
 - Susan Second
 - Susan, Sheila, Gene "Aye"

The Chair motioned to move that the Heath Board of Health adopt local Tobacco Regulations effective July 1, 2024

- Susan Second
- Susan, Sheila, Gene "Aye"

The Chair motioned to close the public hearing regarding Local Tobacco Regulations in Heath.

- Susan Second
- Susan, Sheila, Gene "Aye"

Gene motioned the public hearing to be adjourned, Sheila seconded the motion and Susan third the motion. All in favor I Susan, I Gene, I Sheila
Randy will send the final regulations to the BOH members.
Adjourned at 0935 Gene, Susan, Sheila (Aye)
Gene motioned to close the public hearing event, I Susan, I Sheila, I Gene.

REGIONAL HEALTH AGENT UPDATES

- Randy stated Brookline, MA banned the sale of tobacco to any individuals born after 2000.
- Randy stated his team will submit the CPHS Local Septic and Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products regulations to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and provide a notice to the newspaper.
- He stated that it is recreational camp season. FRCoG is assisting with Jonathan (Heath Recreational Camp of Children) to complete the necessary paperwork in order to be in compliance.
- Mohawk Estates (ME) facilities are opening soon. Sheila stated the BOH is trying to get someone from ME to join the BOH.
- Randy added the State Farm Road in Heath Title V inspection coming up.
- Maya (Assistant Attorney General Office) is the POC for the Neighborhood Renewal Division – receivership program. Blighted properties, abandoned by their owners in residential areas, create safety hazards, attract crime, and lower property values. The Attorney General's Neighborhood Renewal Division can help turn these properties around. Zero cost to community. Example -a house is found in violation of code, orders written, then sent to the AG office for review. The Receiver must work it through the court. Then the court decides if the house complies. If house is up for auction the liens are paid first and then the owner has an option to purchase the home back. Sheila asked Randy if he could set up a meeting/presentation regarding the Neighborhood Renewal Division program with the Town of Heath. BOH members agreed the invite should be extended to the Planning Board and a courtesy invite to the Selectmen. Randy will set up a meeting/zoom. Sheila suggested to hold the meeting in the cafeteria at JRMC. Randy will suggest a date and time to Cindie. BOH will decide if they want to join the receivership program. Randy will forward more info about the program to the BOH members.
- Gene asked Randy if there were any updates on the complaints that his office had received from the Town of Heath. The Number Nine Road complaint, he was not able to see anything from the road and legally not able to enter the property. The Dell Road property, he took a call from the person who filed the complaint. The pictures didn't help him because there is no proof when and where the pictures were taken. He didn't get a good visual from the road. So, he will call the Realtor and ask them to clean it up. Gene will respond to the email regarding the complaint. Susan discussed that she spoke to the owner of 3 Ledges Road who is interested in setting up a camper while they are working on the house. The property is in Heath Center Section C. Susan will get the specifics from the owner. The BOH will have to vote on the request to issue a temporary occupancy permit because the property is in Section C.

NEW BUSINESS:

NURSE UPDATE

- Nurses report: In April Claire made six home visits and one person came to the office for a blood pressure check. 1 person came home from the nursing home and will receive Overlook care and then Claire will follow up.
- More vaccine reimbursements have come in totaling \$142.29.
- Claire is in the process of returning a partial vial of unused vaccine for reimbursement.
- CPHS reports for April: 4 official cases COVID-19, 2 cases of influenza, 5 cases of tick-borne illness, 1 anaplasmosis, 4 cases of Lyme disease, and 2 cases of varicella.
- Precautions for ticks and mosquitos.
- Elissa stated the Nurse’s Job Description was approved by the Select Board on May 7th. Hilma will send out the revised job description to everyone. Gene will follow up.

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATE

- Cindie reviewed the BOH monthly budget (see below).
- She also reviewed the 2024 TOP spreadsheet. 57% applications received and \$2,150 collected as of 05/03/24.

MONTHLY BUDGET:

BOH ACCOUNTS	BUDGET	INCOME	EXPENSED	BALANCE
BOH Expenses	1,500.00		594.50	905.50
Personnel Expenses	8,685.00		2,088.32	6,564.68
Stipends	1,375.00			1,375.00

CARRYOVER ACCOUNTS				
BOH Revolving Fund	11,524.12	50.00	166.40	11,407.72
Septic Grant	43,832.98	14.54		43,847.52

CHAIR RE-APPOINTMENT VOTE

- BOH members unanimously voted Gene Garland to Chair the BOH for another 3 years. Second term starts 7/1/24. Cindie will email the SB to add the appointment to their future agenda.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – May 11th 2024

- Cindie and Gene will set up a table with Public Health Information. (COMPLETE)

HEATH BOH STIPENDS

- Sheila noticed the Heath BOH stipends were the lowest within the FRCoG community and would like to revisit this later since the FY25 was already voted on. She also asked if the BOH should revisit the 5-member composition of the board. Gene suggested to table these items until September for further discussion.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

BOH ACTION REPORT

Gene reviewed the Action Report:

- Reminded members to complete the Public Health training.
- Elissa and Susan provided the Highway Dept with the public health concerns about cleaning out the culverts.
- Elissa stated she had the key and the bags for the dog bag dispenser at Heath Center. She will transfer the items to Cindie. (COMPLETE)
- Gene will follow up with Randy about the installation of Narcan boxes.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- Sheila stated the meeting with Emergency Management and BOH was productive and future meetings should be on a “as needed” basis. Cindie will speak with Tim about the revised paperwork (Shelter Management) for the BOH Handbook. Tim has been busy setting up for the ATM.

CPHS OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Gene attended the in-person meeting. Areas of discussion included the Tabletop exercise in June, growing concern of a high mosquito/tick season. CPHS will offer American Red Cross CPR and First Aid courses for health agents and board members.
- Gene stated FRCOG and LifePath developed the *Age- and Dementia-Friendly Franklin County and North Quabbin Regional Action Plan 2024-2028*. The plan outlines the rationale, action steps, measurements of success, and timeframes for each goal addressed. They are also working with the local towns to review their age-friendly action plan. Gene recommended the Council of Aging (Town of Heath) be involved in the discussion. He added there are funds available to towns who are interested in developing the age-friendly action plan. There is a membership process for Heath to join. Membership in age- and dementia-friendly networks is a commitment to listen to the needs of the aging population, assess age- and dementia-friendliness, and work to create age- and dementia-friendly physical and social environments. Sheila stated 38% of population in Heath is over 64. Moreover, Heath has the highest aging population in Franklin County. Elissa will find out if the Town of Heath has started the membership process.
- Process has been made for on a proposed Opioid plan. FRCOG is working toward pulling the Opioid settlement funds from the local towns together and dispersing a collective program. The local towns approve pulling the funds to support a need. The Town of Heath will receive \$4,465 over 17 years. The money went into a stabilization fund and will need a Town vote to move the funds to FRCoG. It was discussed that if funds could be pulled

out of the BOH Revolving Fund so the town can participate in the program. Gene said he will get with Pheobe at FRCoG to get more details of the initiative. The next meeting is CPHS is May 23rd at 1700. June meeting is cancelled because of the tabletop exercise.

PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT (PVMCD) Updates

- Susan stated there was no meeting because of local town meetings. Next meeting is May 13th. Susan did have an opportunity to speak with John. The district is still discussing the possibility of obtaining a tire shredder; however, funds are limited. Spraying of the shoes will be June 8th at Heath Center. Sheila will laminate the information flyer for the event.

FRCOG ROUNDTABLE

- No meeting.

HEATH HERALD ARTICLES

- Sheila will submit a calendar listing about the June 8th shoe spraying event at Heath Center.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CPHS- FRCOG MOSQUITO PALOOZA TABLETOP EXERCISE

- June 24th, 2024, 9 am – 1 pm at Fellowship Hall in Shelburne Falls
- Test the response plans to an infectious disease outbreak within the CPHS member communities.
- BOH members and Town Nurse will attend.

Next Meeting June 12, 2024, 0900

Susan motioned to adjourn at 1045; Gene seconded the motion. Ayes: Sheila and Gene
Meeting Adjourned 1045.