

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 2024**

Board Members Present: Sheila Litchfield, Susan Gruen, Gene Garland -Chair, Cindie Garland - Interim Board Clerk, Randy Crochier– CPHS/Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCoG) representative.

0900 Meeting Called to Order by Gene Garland

REVIEW AGENDA

- Susan requested to add COVID to the 6/12 Agenda.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

- May 08, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Gene moved to accept the minutes with corrections as written. Sheila seconded the motion. Ayes: Susan, Sheila, and Gene.

REGIONAL HEALTH AGENT UPDATE

- Randy stated most towns in Franklin County have adopted the new Tobacco and Septic regulations. He added that no towns voted down the changes. He will send out the final copy to the towns with dates of adoption and effective dates.
- The beach at Mohawk Estates was inspected by Jasmine, the dock had a few corrections that needed to be made and now it is good. The beach testing is also good, so they open and operating. Randy said that he is in the process of reviewing the Hilltown Youth paperwork.
- Sheila asked about the status of the Title V on State Farm Road in Heath. Randy said the property had a failed Title V. After the perc test was complete the owner provided paperwork stating the property was a 3-bedroom design, the Title V and the Assessor said it was a 4-bedroom. To replace the system as a 4-bedroom design it would be considered new construction. Kurt walked through the house to count bedrooms, which is normal after a Title V inspection and verified the property **was** a 3-bedroom. Sheila stated that the owner didn't know they needed to pump the system, it had been over 30 years since it was pumped. Randy stated that an amazing number of system owners believe that if they haven't had any problems with their systems, they don't need to pump out their tanks. This is a serious and sometimes costly misconception. As your system is used, solid materials settle to the bottom of the tank, forming a sludge layer. MassDEP recommends that a properly maintained septic system should be pumped out at least once every 3 years.
- Susan stated she contacted the resident at 3 Ledges Road to inform him the BOH had several questions:
 - #1. We need a request in writing sent to the Board of Heath.**
 - #2. What size camper/ a picture would be helpful?**
 - #3. How would you deal with Sewage?**
 - #4. What is your water source.**
 - #5. What dates would you be needing the camper?**

#6. How many people would be using the camper?

The owner stated he is running low on funds and isn't sure if he could afford installing a septic system right now. Susan asked if he would be eligible for the Homeowner Septic Loan program through Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency (Mass Housing). Randy stated the program is income based. Susan asked Gene if he received a request from the owner to place his camper on the property over the winter or apply for a Temporary Occupancy Permit. Gene stated he has not. Gene emailed Brian McHugh about the status of the program. The BoH will monitor the progress of the program and will keep the homeowner of 3 Ledges Road informed.

- Sheila asked Randy if the new BoH member (Tucker Jenkins) could still register for the tabletop exercise that is scheduled on June 24th, 2024, at Fellowship Hall in Shelburne Falls.

NEW BUSINESS:

NURSE UPDATE

- Nurses report: In May Claire Rabbitt, RN made three home visits. 4 sharp containers have been brought in and the pickup by Stericycle has been ordered as the collection box is nearly full. Claire stated in the past she was able to order this on her own, but now uses the County solid waste program.
- Claire attended a radon webinar and a vaccine confidence webinar with more webinars related to the vaccine program coming up.
- Claire obtained a glucose meter as requested by the BOH; however, a test solution was not included, and will order it separately. Sheila and Susan agreed that Claire only needs to order the test strips. Sheila suggested that Claire do an educational program on blood sugar management at the senior center (JRMC) or submit an article in the Heath Herald, so residents are aware of the test strips that are available to them. Susan suggests doing something with the Council of Aging. Susan said she will follow up.
- The Bones and Balance exercise program is going well.

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATE

- Cindie reviewed the BOH monthly budget (see below).
- She also reviewed the 2024 TOP spreadsheet. 74% applications received and \$2,850 collected as of 06/09/24.
- Cindie will order more tick tests from MedZu, Inc. (COMPLETE)

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
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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

NEW MEMBER VOTE

- Gene moved to recommend Tucker Jenkins to the BoH. Susan second. BOH members unanimously voted Tucker Jenkins to the BOH for a 3-year term. Gene will send the recommendation to the SB to add the appointment to the SB future agenda.
- Gene stated the workload will be re-balanced with the members when Tucker Jenkins is on board.

3 LEDGES ROAD/SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

- Gene restated what was previously mentioned earlier during the Regional Health Agent update. Randy also mentioned that he was not sure if unoccupied homes are eligible under the Septic Loan program.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

CPHS OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Susan attended the June meeting. Discussion included:
 - Status of BoH members training requirements and certificate submission.
 - FRCOG is enhancing their documentation capabilities to include on-line permitting and nurses goals and immunization tracker.
 - CPHS hired a couple individuals to help with housing and assistance.
 - There was also discussion about the status of the Tobacco and Septic updated regulations.
 - First Aid classes went well.
 - Randy stated that FRCOG has not received the Narcan Boxes however, they were ordered. He added that an SOP will accompany the boxes which will include the POC who will maintain them at each town/location.
 - Sheila will cover the July meeting and Gene will cover the September meeting.
 - Sheila stated that the Opioid Task Force has a program coordinator who is providing outreach services to the food pantries. They are sending a van that would have space for counseling and training. Moreover, the task force will have Narcan boxes in the van. The task force may visit Charlemont during the month of July.

PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT (PVMCD) Updates

- Susan stated there was much discussion about Eastern Equine Encephalitis (Triple E) and how it spreads.
- Spraying of the shoes was successful, 40 shoes were sprayed. Residents were bringing in multiple shoes from their homes. Many people stated they would come next year if the service was provided. Maureen O'Reilly stated that folks in Heath who didn't have the opportunity to have their shoes sprayed can bring them to the Colrain and Shelburne Falls events.
- John Briggs is in a temporary building in South Deerfield. UMASS may have a large space that John will be able to use for free which has venting capabilities and freezers that can hold specimens.
- Throughout Massachusetts there are a significant increase in number of mosquitoes that are being tested and are pre-positive for Triple E. Susan stated the issue is what to do, who oversees the spraying, BoH or SB. Susan suggest a SB member to be at the CPHS meeting on the 24th of June. John Briggs recommended to the communities to be pro-active and think about spraying before there is an outbreak. Susan added that UMASS students are doing more testing to track the spread. She stated even though the spraying is a sensitive subject that the risk for the elderly and young people of being infective is high. John Briggs stated that spraying is not done before events (which cost more money than is available) but aerial spraying is performed in areas that are considered problematic.
- Gene suggests that John Briggs write a letter to the SB of the risk of Triple E in the mosquito population. The letter would go through the BoH with a recommendation. Susan informed John not to assume that the information that he is giving to the SB is getting forward to the BoH. Susan suggested John could provide a presentation to the SB and BoH, discuss what CPHS does for us and what the issues they are dealing with such as Triple E. The town pays \$1,000/ to be a member of the PVMCD program. Sheila asked if there was a decision tree available that shows what the municipalities must do and decisions that are out of their hands. She understood that the state aerial spraying was going to happen in high-risk areas even if the municipality wanted it or not. Susan said John was working on what the different levels of risk were and what actions would take place at each level. Sheila suggested for the BoH to get on the SB agenda to discuss a town plan, who and how are decisions made regarding aerial spraying. (COMPLETE, July 16th). Susan is going to set up a meeting with Elissa to discuss topics mention above.

FRCOG ROUNDTABLE

- No meeting.

BOH ACTION REPORT

- Cindie reviewed and updated the Action Report: Gene will reach out to Randy about scheduling the AG's Neighborhood Renewal Division Brief for September 4th 2024 during the monthly BOH meeting.
- Air Quality Testing Equipment- Susan stated the equipment has not been received. The state provided a grant for towns to receive the equipment for free.

- Opioid Settlement Plan – A vote at the next ATM (2025) to release funds from the stabilization account to FRCOG to help fund the pilot program (all towns are pulling funds together). Cindie will keep it on the tracker as a reminder.

HEATH HERALD ARTICLES

- Sheila stated an article will need to be submitted by July 5 for the Aug/Sep newsletter. Susan suggested an article about West Nile Virus (WNV) and Triple E. Sheila suggested adding to the calendar the booster vaccine and flu clinics (Oct 17, 2024) at the Hawlemont School.

COVID INFORMATION

- Susan has 4 COVID tests kits and Claire has 10. She asked if she should order more. She said there is a new variant but didn't know much about it. Sheila recommends ordering more since they are free, and we could provide test kits at the flu clinics.

Next Meeting July 10, 2024, 0900

Gene motioned to adjourn at 1011; Susan seconded the motion. Ayes: Sheila, Susan and Gene
Meeting Adjourned 1011.