

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2024**

Board Members Present: Sheila Litchfield, Susan Gruen, Gene Garland -Chair
Others: Cindie Garland – Boards Clerk, Randy Crochier – Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCoG) Regional Agent, Elissa Viarengo – Heath Select Board Representative

0914 Meeting Called to Order by Gene Garland

REVIEW AGENDA/ADD ITEMS

- The board reviewed the agenda, and no items were added.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

- Sept 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Susan moved to accept the minutes with corrections as written. Gene seconded the motion. Ayes: Susan, Sheila, and Gene.

REGIONAL HEALTH AGENT UPDATE

Randy stated:

- FRCoG has been busy with vaccine clinics in Franklin County. Flu and Covid vaccines are provided at the clinics. The service is also provided to in-home individuals.
- His team is still providing food inspections at local Fairs and Festivals.
- He provided several site visits in Heath including inspections of the installation of a new well and replacement of an old one. A property owner was not pleased that his old well, which collapsed, was decommissioned. A well by its nature is a hole in the ground that goes right into the water table. The homeowner’s desire was to keep the old well and use it as a hand pump which is forbidden by the Town of Heath’s private well regulations as it leaves an open channel for potential contamination of the aquifer. (Update: Phoebe Walker sent the homeowner an email explaining FRCoG’s authority comes directly from the Town of Heath BOH, they are required to uphold their regulations.)
- He addressed the complaint BOH and FRCoG received. This property owner stated his neighbor continues to dump oil, batteries, tires and automotive parts on his property next to his property. Frequently pushing logs and brush onto his property including many tires that are being buried over the line. Randy said he will draft an inspection letter for the board.
- Maya from the Attorney General’s office will provide the Neighborhood Renewal Division brief during the BOH December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

NURSE UPDATE

- Nurses report: In September Claire prepared for flu vaccine distribution. She downloaded the orders for administration of flu vaccine, faxed them to Dr. Warner, the medical director, for his approval and signature. Moreover, Claire ordered and picked up

supplies, gauze sponges needed when vaccinating and Benadryl to use in the event of a reaction to vaccine. She scheduled a flu clinic for Saturday, October 5 from 10 AM to 1 PM at the JRMC Nurses office. Notices are posted at JRMC and the post office.

- Claire stated there are no free EpiPens available this year from the state. Residents have been picking up the free COVID tests at JRMC.

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATE

- Cindie reviewed the BOH monthly budget (see below).
- The board agreed to order more tick testing coupons. (UPDATE: Complete)

FY25 MONTHLY BUDGET:

BOH ACCOUNTS	BUDGET	INCOME	EXPENSED	BALANCE
BOH Expenses	1,500.00			1,500.00
Personnel Expenses	7,488.00		471.00	7,017.00
Stipends	1,375.00			1,375.00
CARRYOVER ACCOUNTS				
BOH Revolving Fund	14,091.32			14,091.32
Septic Grant	43,862.18			43,862.18

COVID UPDATES/TEST KITS/UPCOMING CLINIC

- FRCOG released the dates and locations of the 2024 Fall Franklin County Vaccine Clinics. October 22, 2024 @ 3:30-7 p.m. Hawlemont Elementary School (Charlemont). Cindie will add the information on the Town of Heath website, BOH Facebook page, and at the information boards in Sawyer Hall and JRMC.
- Sheila stated that EDS will be performing a drill at the Hawlemont Elementary School location on Oct 22. She added the EDS is operated by the Boards of Health in the five towns that support all of the EDS.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

- Gene discussed CPHS Regional Opioid Settlement Project.
- CPHS Oversight Board approved three projects to be funded for FY25 and FY26:
 - the creation of All-Recovery meetings in Western and Northern Franklin County through the Recovery Project
 - support for three pregnant participants from your towns in the Moms Do Care program for people with opioid use disorder

- and provide a fund for recovery supports for residents of CPHS member towns to be administered by CHD Recovery Coaches

- Gene will inquire if the Town of Heath Selectboard would be interested in a brief by CPHS about the program.

PARKS AND RECREATION DOG POOP BAG DISPENSER REQUEST

- On a motion by Gene, seconded by Susan, to endorse the request for a dog poop bag dispenser on the JRMC grounds, the vote was unanimous. Cindie will reach out to the Parks and Recreation chairperson with the decision.

NALOXONE OVERDOSE EMERGENCY KITS

- Gene received the emergency kits from Maureen O'Reilly (FRCoG) with extra supplies. On a motion by Gene, seconded by Sheila, to endorse installation of a Narcan box at Sawyer Hall and at the Town Garage, the vote was unanimous. Sheila will ask Tim to install the boxes. (UPDATE: The Selectboard instructed Tim to install them at Sawyer Hall and JRMC.) If the town receives another box, it will be placed at the Town Garage. Susan will monitor the box at Sawyer Hall and Cindie at JRMC.

PORTA-POTTY APPLICATION

- Last month the board received a complaint about a porta-potty that was installed at the end of the complainant's driveway on Dell Road. Gene reached out to the individual with the complaint and did not receive a response. Sheila noticed the porta potty is no longer on the property.
- BOH received a porta potty application from Jenny Hamilton for Mohawk Estates. There is a short-term loss of one restroom due to a plumbing issue that resulted in a need to close both restrooms. Two porta-potties have been brought in for toileting. On a motion by Gene, seconded by Susan, to endorse the request for two porta-potties at Mohawk Estates, the vote was unanimous. Cindie will forward the approved application to Jenny.

COMPLAINT LETTER

- When the BOH receives the inspection report from Randy Crochier (as mentioned above), Gene will draft a letter to the individual whom the complaint is about. Susan and Sheila offered to hand deliver the letter. (UPDATE: The Heath Chief of Police spoke to the individual and will provide a dumpster to dispose the items in question at the residence.)

ONGOING BUSINESS:

CPHS OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Opioid Settlement Regional Project – Pheobe Walker reviewed the three programs and organizations (Recover Project, Moms Do Care, Center for Human Development) to which pooled municipal funds will be directed, as well as the fiscal procedures she has established with the agencies and town Select Board members.

Naloxone Cabinet Status – Maureen O’Reilly shared a map indicating where cabinets have been installed and noted that she will update it as appropriate. Members reported positive feedback on the project.

- Air Quality Sensoring – Funded by a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant, will go up at locations yet-to-be-determined in 12 towns later in the fall. Public data will be available via the Healthy Air Network.
- Next Meeting: October 24, 2024, Transit Center, in person

PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT (PVMCD)

Susan stated she has been in contact with John Briggs and he reported:

- Mosquito testing and surveillance has concluded for the season. Pioneer Valley had a total of six West Nile virus positive pools mosquitoes, with the furthest north returning in Greenfield. The weather changed around late August, early September where there was a lack of rain and dropping temperatures. Had there been more rain, there would have had more West Nile Virus cases in the Pioneer Valley. There must be two hard frosts for the mosquitoes to die off. The state of Connecticut did not have any positive pools close to the Massachusetts border in Hampden County, but did have a small spillover in Rhode Island. There was an Eastern Equine Encephalitis case in Weston, Massachusetts because of the shortage of member communities in this specific area. No other human cases were reported from the State of Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
- Susan discussed John Briggs office relocation from South Deerfield to UMass Amherst. Working out of the UMASS campus will provide him access to the epidemiology team at the college. John anticipates a signed contract in December. There was also discussion about taking over the tick testing.
- A rare tick born disease has been found in Connecticut for the first time. This is another mosquito-borne illness which has similar characteristics as spotted fever. Susan concluded that if there is a wet winter she anticipates more cases in the future.
- Next PVMCD meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2- 4pm on Zoom.
- Sheila was able to reach out to CoreTex about the expiration date on the BugX30 towelettes. The product does not have an expiration date.

BOH ACTION REPORT

- Gene reviewed the action report.
- The board members discussed the Air Quality Testing Equipment that is funded by the DEP Air Sensor Grant Program. The equipment was sent to Yale School of Public Health for calibration. The next step is finding a site for the Purple Air Sensors in Heath. Requirements for installation:
 - Within 6 ft of an outdoor power outlet
 - Within 100 feet of the Wi-Fi router
 - At least 6 ft above ground, avoiding exhaust or vents
 - On a flat surface which accommodate screws for mounting
 - In a protected location, like an eave
 - In an accessible location for potential maintenance
 - In an area clear from other structures or devices

- The board agreed that Sawyer Hall and JRMC are ideal locations.

BOH MEMBERS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Gene reviewed the BOH tasker spreadsheet and updated the primary and secondary members. The board will review the taskers with Tucker at the next BOH meeting.

HEATH HERALD ARTICLES

- Sheila and Maureen O'Reilly (FRCoG) will provide an informational article, including pictures, about the Narcan boxes that were installed at Sawyer Hall and JRMC.

Next Meeting November 6, 2024, 0900, on Zoom.

Gene motioned to adjourn at 10:45; Sheila seconded the motion. Ayes: Sheila, Susan, and Gene
Meeting Adjourned at 10:45.