

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
July 09, 2025**

Board Members Present: Sheila Litchfield, Susan Gruen, Tucker Jenkins, Elissa Viarengo- Select Board Representative, and Gene Garland -Chair
Cindie Garland – Boards Clerk

0901 Meeting Called to Order by Gene Garland

REVIEW AGENDA/ADD ITEMS

- The board reviewed the agenda. Susan requested adding two items:
 - Follow-up on Sawyer Hall repairs.
 - Review of recent cooling center opening.
- Chair confirmed both items are on the BOH Action Report.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

- June 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes: Susan moved to accept the minutes. Sheila seconded the motion. Ayes: Susan, Sheila, Tucker and Gene. Approved the minutes unanimously.

REGIONAL HEALTH AGENT UPDATE

- Randy Crochier unable to attend due to Title 5 inspections.
- Provided an email update on ongoing items. Members reviewed and had no major concerns.
- Discussion deferred on Jonathan's Hilltown Youth Camp issue until Randy's presence.

NEW BUSINESS

NURSE UPDATE (Claire Rabbitt, RN)

- Summary for June 2025: Total patients seen: 9; Home visits: 4 (to same patient, currently on hospice and stable). Office procedures: 2 INR tests and blood pressure checks.
- Claire stated she attended 2 webinars — one on vaccine confidence, one on vaccine storage and handling. Returned unused influenza vaccine; partial reimbursement expected.

SHOE-SPRAYING EVENT

- The board agreed to host a second shoe-spraying event on Aug 2nd at Community Hall.
- Tucker, Jason and Susan volunteered for this event.
- Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (leave early if activity ends sooner).
- Location: Behind Community Hall near dumpster area; spraying to take place there.
- Gloves needed – Cindie to check stock at Jacobs Road.
- Cindie to update poster with new date. Posters/flyers to be distributed at 18 Jacobs Road, Sawyer Hall, on sandwich boards, and the Town website. Additionally, the Heath Herald calendar (if deadline allows) "All Around Heath," and Heath Connects. Electronic version to be provided for distribution. Consider laminated posters without dates for future reuse.

- Participants encouraged to bring shoes in separate brown paper bags to speed processing.

RAW MILK SURVEY FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

- FRCOG responded to the state regarding the survey. No further action needed by the board.

HEATH FAIR

- Board members discussed set up a Public Health table at the Heath Fair (Aug '25).
 - Provide information about tick and mosquito prevention.
 - Offer bug wipes and masks.

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATE

- Cindie stated office activity light; primary requests were for septic plan copies.
- FY25 budget nearly fully spent (approx. \$77 remaining).
- Bug wipes ordered; expected arrival before fair.

| BOH ACCOUNTS | BUDGET | INCOME | EXPENSED | BALANCE |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| BOH Expenses | 1,500.00 | | 1,423.00 | 77.00 |
| Personnel Expenses | 7,488.00 | | 5,861.20 | 1,626.80 |
| Stipends | 1,375.00 | | | 1,375.00 |
| BOH Revolving Fund | 14,091.32 | 200.00 | | 14,291.32 |
| Septic Grant | 43,862.18 | | | 43,862.18 |
| Opioid Settlement | 869.53 | 49.85 | | 919.38 |
| Vaccine Revolving Fund | | 1,488.77 | 6,972.65 | (5,483.88) |

TICK CARD INFORMATION

- Board members discussed updating tick identification cards. Need cards showing photos of both male and female ticks, with associated diseases listed (including multiple diseases per tick). Existing cards from veterinary offices are informative but animal-focused; BOH members seeks a public health-oriented version.
- Current online and state health department resources appear outdated.
- Possible suppliers to contact UMass, tick testing lab (Paul), or state public health agencies.
- Interim measure: Continue search for updated, cost-effective bulk card printing.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

CPHS (COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES) UPDATE

- Susan Gruen stated last meeting held at Buckland, low attendance.
- Maureen has left her epidemiology role for a full-time BOH Certification position with FRCOG, involving septic, water, and related certifications; received a raise and is pleased with new role.
- CPHS is no longer producing newsletter.
- No COVID vaccination clinics planned due to lack of funding; volunteer homebound flu clinics to continue. Phoebe Walker preparing posters with information on where to get

vaccines (CVS, Walgreens, Baker Pharmacy). Big Y could potentially host a clinic, but Town BOH's would need to handle computer work and insurance — currently not feasible.

- No August meeting; next meetings: July 24, 2025, and October 23, 2025 (baked potato and salad gathering with statewide BOH representatives invited).
- COVID update: new variant FLiRT causes severe sore throat, headache, fever, and muscle aches; new vaccine expected late August.

PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT (PVMCD) UPDATE

- Susan Gruen stated the next meeting: July 14th, 2025.
- Positive mosquito larvae (the active immature form of an insect) detected in Middlesex, Bristol, and Worcester counties; none yet in Pioneer Valley.
- High mosquito counts occurring earlier than usual due to increased rain and humidity — concern for West Nile virus risk.
- Posters on ticks remain up, public feedback positive regarding planned shoe spraying.
- Tick activity and disease concerns remain high; multiple media articles shared with BOH members.

MOHAWK AREA PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION (MAPHCO)

- Gene stated no updates. Next meeting Sept 9th.
- Will provide updates during September meeting.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (REPC)

- Sheila stated there is no update.

BOH ACTION ITEMS

- Follow up on BOH stipend review.
- Remind BOH members to complete MA Public Health online training.

HEATH HERALD ARTICLES

- Aug/Sep Newsletter: Lithium battery safety.

Next Meeting: Sep 10, 2025 @ 0900 via Zoom.

Gene made a motion to adjourn at 9:47; Sheila seconded the motion. Ayes: Sheila, Susan, Tucker and Gene. Meeting Adjourned at 9:47.