

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
August 4, 2021
4:30 pm**

Board Members Present: Betsy Kovacs, Barbara Gordon, Susan Gruen, Gene Garland, Randy Crochier (FRCOG), Kate Peppard (clerk)

Board Members Absent: Henry Godek

4:32 Meeting Called to Order (Kovacs chairing)

MINUTES

July 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Susan moved to accept the July 14, 2021 minutes as written; Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene, Betsy.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Nothing new to report from the chairman. In lieu of a full report, Betsy noted that she will address/respond to issues throughout the meeting.

Barbara presented a summary of the Cooperative Public Health Service DPH meeting:

- FRCOG is distributing weekly reportable disease report. It shows a significant rise of anaplasmosis in our hilltowns; Barbara noted that anaplasmosis falls within the current signage information that highlights tickborne illness.
- Updated COVID vaccine county resources; MassVax finder is working well. It should be the resource people use now to locate vaccinations;
- Barbara noted that we may want to consider having a flu shot clinic locally (Hawley is interested in a West County clinic);
- Tick Borne Illness Education
 - Barbara suggested we should do a reverse 911 call about tick borne diseases. Barbara to follow up with Mary Sumner to implement reverse 911 while Hilma is on vacation.
 - Barbara has arranged to have a table at the Heath Fair along with Jeanette from FRCOG. FRCOG will be there Saturday 10-4. Barbara is planning to be there with Jeannette on Saturday; Susan is willing to be at the table on Sunday. Kate suggested 10-4 Saturday, 10-2 on Sunday. Kate to ask Heath Ag to have fee waived for entry of FRCOG rep.
 - Barbara wants to be able to cover Jeanette's admission and lunch. **Betsy moved to give Barbara up to \$100 for any incidental expenses related to the BoH table at the fair. Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Betsy, Gene.**

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATES

- Board of Health Clerk Report: few calls and emails this past month, have been getting to know the systems. Current office hours: Tuesdays 4:30 – 6:30 PM. Checking emails throughout the week.
- Budget Report: Nothing to report (have not received any data from the accountant).

NURSE UPDATES

- Nurses Report (July): Claire has been seeing people in her office at Community Hall.
- Susan noted that the Select Board is planning to move employees to 18 Jacobs Road. Susan is concerned about Claire having to relocate given how frail the people she sees are
 - **Betsy moved that Susan discuss the issue of moving with Claire, and that we defer any action until necessary to support Claire's preference. Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene, Betsy.**

FRCOG Updates (Randy Crochier)

Randy has been promoted to Public Health Director at FRCOG and will be getting a new Public Health Agent reporting to him. Hoping to have one of the agents assigned as a specialist so others can focus on other areas.

- 8 Title V permit applications active in the system
- 6 Temporary Food Service applications in (Fair); Kate to follow up with Randy on potential food vendors
- PHE Grant – new nurse starts next week
- Randy will be in the office a couple days a week but will also be out in the field doing inspections and attending local BoH meetings; Randy intends to keep attending the Heath BoH meeting
- Will be coming to Heath this week for a Title V inspection (405 8A)

OLD BUSINESS

- 594 (trailer unfit for human habitation) & 612 Route 8A being inspected later next week (Crochier)
- Flagg Hill Extension (excessive trash/waste on the property) – follow-up in process (Crochier)
- 38 Bray Road – Betsy noted that trailers were moved off property with one moved to the West side of Bray Road property; State police came in and notified us of vandalism; bank owners intend to board up the property and prepare for putting on the market; Do we need a TOP for trailers that are not occupied? Betsy asked Kate to check with Mary on developing a recommendation. Randy will take a look at the 38 Bray Road property when he is in Heath. Crochier/Peppard)
- 3 Ledge – Randy recommends removing it from Old Business for now, until new items come up for that property.
- Board of Health presentation to Select Board (Garland) – Requested to meet on 8/5. Select Board said we could present at a regular meeting (possibly 8/10). Gene created a PowerPoint presentation that gives an overview of BoH responsibilities, including those mandated by Massachusetts public health law. Betsy asked if we want to continue or move forward with the August 10 meeting. Barbara is concerned that this kind of presentation would not serve to further our goal of trying to enhance/improve communications/collaboration/cooperation between BoH and Select Board. Betsy thinks we should have specific discreet goals and would like to see, at the very least, that the BoH be brought in for consultation on anything regarding public health items (for example: Mosquito Control District, which happened recently). Barbara would like to have a monthly update/board report at the Selectboard meetings. Gene moved that we collaboratively draft a letter to the Select Board to address their questions about what BoH wishes to discuss with them. Barbara seconded. Gene to draft the letter. Betsy asked Gene to respond to the Select Board invitation to the 8/10 meeting. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene, Betsy. Barbara secondarily asked if we can clarify the roles and responsibilities between FRCOG/local BoH. Betsy explained that the Public Health Agent is an agent of the BoH and acts at the direction and under the authority of the BoH. This should be part of the clarification to BoS.
- COVID-19 Issues:
 - Susan is observing more people are going into the post office unmasked. **Susan moved that we advise the town to put more visible signs about mask usage when entering Sawyer Hall. Gene seconded. Ayes: Gene, Susan, Barbara; Nay: Betsy.**
 - **Barbara moved to reconsider the vote regarding larger signs for masking at Sawyer Hall.. Seconded by Gene. Ayes: Betsy, Barbara, Gene, Susan. Betsy noted that indoor masking is not mandatory in Massachusetts. We will not ask for additional signs at this time.**
 - Massachusetts has the second highest vaccination rate. Randy noted that the numbers are slowly climbing up. Mohawk COVID task force is meeting to discuss what will be required for schools.
- Update on Mosquito Control District (Gordon)-
 - weekly arbovirus report shows Heath/Franklin County low risk.
 - West Nile is on the rise in the east and spreading. Unlikely to see EEE this year (tends to

- be early emergence).
 - Reverse 911 dialog scheduled to be sent out to highlight West Nile virus emergence and mosquito safety. Barbara thinks a monthly reminder on reverse 911 would be helpful. Betsy agreed it is a good idea.
 - Will be having handouts at the Heath Fair. Barbara has been collecting informational materials for posting/distribution
 - Randy is studying towards a pesticide license (catch basin license), which would allow us to treat particular areas with larvicide off of his license.
- 25 West Branch Road: review next steps for septic repair – letter in process by Crochier
- T.O.P. Request Number 9 Road (across from 136) – owner requesting we allow two trailer/campers on the property. This needs to go before the zoning board. Kate to draft a letter.
- 405 Route 8A (Property Transfer – Randy to follow up with the owner to verify septic system is in place)
- 391 Route 8A (Septic – Property Transfer – Randy to follow up with the owner to verify septic system is in place)
- 14 Knott Road (Septic – Property Transfer – tight tank needs to be connected to the home)

Kate reviewed pumping reports, Well Reports, Title V and Perc Tests; requests for the same.

NEW BUSINESS

- Grant for Air Purifiers Kovacs – Barbara noted that this is a grant for air sampling/sensors. Randy clarified that it requires power and wifi and will be transmitting real time data on particulate matter/air quality issues. Towns can order minimum of 5, maximum of 10. Barbara advocates participating in this program. Betsy asked that we table this until the September meeting, when Randy will have more information from FRCOG. Agreed.
- Idling in Town Center – there is a Massachusetts law preventing idling; **Betsy moved that we put up signs citing MGL and alert the Select Board in time for their meeting on the 10th. Budget of \$60 for minimum of two signs in town center. Seconded by Susan. Susan referenced signs at Hawlemont and 18 Jacobs Road. Randy to send a link to the sign. Ayes: Betsy, Susan, Barbara, Gene**
- Binaxnow Rapid Test – Barbara asked if our nurse can administer. Randy noted that the county has ordered a significant number of tests. Susan asked about protocol for positive tests. Would we be responsible for reporting via MAVEN. Randy to update with more information on how this will be distributed and requirements for administration from FRCOG in September.
- Board of Health Clerk office communications: no significant email or phone inquiries since the previous meeting on 7/14. The clerk is out of the office this week, returning next Tuesday 8/10.

Ongoing and/or Suspended Items

- a. 4 Apache Drive
- b. 20 Judd Road: update on Order to Correct
- c. 21/27 West Brook trash issue
- d. Abandoned and dilapidated buildings project
- e. 3 Ledge

Susan moved to adjourn at 6:52; Betsy seconded. Ayes: Betsy, Susan, Barbara, Gene. Meeting Adjourned 6:52 PM