

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2021**

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

4:30 Meeting Called to Order (Garland chairing)

REVIEW AGENDA

- Susan requested we discuss the item of mold at the firehouse

MINUTES

- August 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Susan moved to accept the August 4, 2021 minutes with corrections as stated; Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene.
- August 16, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes: Susan moved to accept the August 16, 2021 minutes as written; Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Gene will be revisiting dates/schedules for the various boards we represent (MDPH, MAPHCO, Monthly LBOH Calls)

- Meetings – Gene advocates for keeping the meetings to an hour. Want to streamline meeting agenda – looking for suggestions
- Gene will be revisiting dates/schedules for the various boards we represent (MDPH, MAPHCO, Monthly LBOH Calls)
- Old Business – need to resolve or remove to help streamline the agenda and meeting
- Select Board Meeting Review (Barbara Gordon in attendance)
 - Select Board is in support of the BOH mask mandate as written
 - Select Board has postponed BOH requested appointments until the BOH can review the third candidate presented by the Select Board
 - Select Board touched on no idling request; noted it is a state law and enforceable by the police. The BOH requested (no-idling) signage was not discussed.

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATES

- Streamlined and restructured the agenda
- Wrote letter declining two (2) trailer TOP request (Number 9 Road)
- Continuing to check emails throughout the week.
- Septic Systems Permitting – tracking new requests for permits
- Few calls and emails this past month
- Budget Report – on track
 - 90% remaining for Clerk Salary (\$3573.78 of \$3962.40)
 - 100% remaining for expenses (\$2100)

NURSE UPDATES (Sue Gruen)

- Nurses Report – August (presented by Susan Gruen):
- Flu shots delivered (to the library). Claire picked up. Claire will do homebound people and we may do a flu shot drive-thru.

- Susan has created list of (30) high risk people. Susan plans to review with Council on Aging. Consider dividing the list for outreach between BOH members for future BOH emergencies.
- Internet access is still an issue, so she does a lot of the work requiring network at home.

FRCOG Updates (Randy Crochier)

- FRCOG Updates – Two jobs posted for health agent and community health educator; receiving applications and working toward a hiring committee.
- Title V applications still very busy
- Lisa White setting up flu clinics and setting up pop-up clinics
- Grant for (Purple Air) Air Quality Testers: DEP never responded as to whether we can do this as a district. Randy can help any town that wants to do it, but each town needs to do a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 testers. Need to partner with groups/people.
 - Gene would like to follow up on this discussion and make a decision/recommendation; if other board members would like to research this topic
 - Application is due October 1
- BinaxNow Test: no updates from Randy
- Properties Under Review
 - 594 Route 8A – no updates
 - 612 Route 8A – no updates
 - 434 Route 8A – no updates
 - 7 Flag Hill Extension – no updates
 - 25 West Branch Road – recent conversation that design needs to move forward
- Property Transfers (septic evaluations)
 - 405 Route 8A
 - 391 Route 8A
 - 14 Knott Road
 - 3 Ledge has been sold and is a new property transfer – will need to address spring & septic prior to any building permits. Moved to On-going list.

OLD BUSINESS

- Idling in Town Center: Barbara questions whether we should again petition the Select Board to place signs. We have some responsibility to care for the public health. Barbara notes we should take a stand on this. Susan agrees. This does fall under law enforcement and is a finable offense. Barbara advocates for signage, which can only be implemented by the Select Board. Susan agrees. Motion to again address the item of idling in town center (Gene). Susan seconded. Ayes: Gene, Susan, Barbara. **ACTION: letter to the Select Board (Gene)**
- BOH Monthly Reports with BOS.
 - Gene thinks that a formal monthly report to the Select Board would be beneficial. Gene will pursue whether we can have a standing report time set aside in the meetings.
 - Barbara suggested that we make ourselves available for each Select Board meeting. This could be a formal process, rotating through the BOH members.
 - Barbara moved that the Heath Board of Health establish a rotation of representatives to attend all select board meetings and that we notify the select board that we will be available at each of the meetings to field any questions that might arise. Susan seconded. Ayes: Barbara, Gene, Susan.
- COVID-19 Issues:
 - Received notification that someone in Heath has tested positive and is quarantining. Gene has received a notification regarding this positive test. Randy clarified that all the COVID information moves through FRCOG (Lisa White). BOH has reached out to quarantined families for assistance in the past. Contact tracer (FRCOG) asks families what they need for help. **ACTION: Gene will contact Lisa about this case and will ask about trends.**
 - Barbara noted that we have had an uptick in the last three weeks – a large number in

- comparison to what we have had previously. It is looking like a trend.
 - Will need to have more information/new signage for the new mask mandate. It was suggested we may need to do a reverse 911 call to inform people that the new mask mandate is in place due to COVID cases being on the rise. Barbara has new signs from FRCOG – will need to be laminated.
 - Barbara noted Rowe has an oversight committee that has representatives from different parts of the community to have meetings to discuss what is going on (weekly when things were more intense, monthly when things dropped back). Barbara suggested we may want to model that. Gene suggested adding this to our next meeting agenda, invite the Rowe BoH to attend and discuss (Maggie Rice). **Action: Barbara to reach out to Maggie.**
- Mosquito Control District (Barbara).
 - 101 west nile positive mosquitoes tested in Mass. Human cases (4) in Middlesex County. Our area has not had any positive cases and this area is listed as low risk.
 - Two reverse 911 calls to Heath residents reminding to take precautions, and tabled at the Heath Fair on mosquito borne illness and tick-borne illness. Barbara is documenting our public education efforts to share with the State Board (which is part of our aerial spraying opt-out obligation).
 - Gene asked if we could do an article for the Heath Herald as documentation and awareness. Submission deadline for fall has passed and winter would not be relevant for mosquito information. Barbara noted that in the future we may want to have a BOH corner with an article in each issue Randy offered that FRCOG can help with articles.

NEW BUSINESS

- Select Board Appointments to Board of Health (Garland):
 - Now have three applicants: Casey Clark, Lorraine Berger, Elissa Viarengo
 - Barbara noted that Casey might be most appropriate as ex officio. Susan and Gene agrees.
 - Barbara moved to recommend to the select board that we appoint Casey Clark to the Heath Board of Health as an ex officio member and restate our recommendation that Elissa Viarengo and Lorraine Berger be appointed as full voting members to the Heath Board of Health. Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Gene, Barbara.
- Mask Mandate Review (Garland); Draft has been circulated to the Board of Health members and to the Select Board. The select board is in support of the mandate.
 - Randy noted that Shelburne and Buckland are issuing a mask mandate. Out of the 12 towns FRCOG serves, 8 towns have mandates, one has a recommendation, two have not adopted the mandate.
 - Barbara made the motion to adopt the mask mandate as written and shared with the select board, effective 12:01 AM Friday September 10, 2021. Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Gene, Barbara.
 - Randy noted that either the majority of the board can sign the mandate, or Randy can sign for the board. **ACTION: Gene to sign and drop it off at Susan's house for signatures from Susan and Barbara.**
 - Barbara noted that we will need to reach out to the Select Board and Building Use Committee regarding signage and public education.. She noted we should have formal communication with organizations (churches and others). **ACTION: Gene will email the church deacon, Mohawk Estates to notify of the mandate and that (laminated) posters are available. Susan to deliver signs to Hilma.**
 - Randy noted FRCOG can provide more signs and links to signs. **ACTION: Gene to pick up more from FRCOG.**
- Appoint member & alternate for CPHS Oversight Board (Garland): Meets on fourth Thursday. Barbara volunteered, Susan as alternate. **Gene Nominated Barbara as CPHS Oversight Board and Susan as alternate.** Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Gene, Barbara.
- Designation of BoH members to attend monthly FRCOG roundtable (Garland). **Gene nominated himself to attend this meeting.** Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Gene, Barbara.

- Consideration of methods to improve communications with BoS (Garland). Tabled for next meeting.
- MVP Kick-off meeting (Gruen) – No updates/information.

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 – will bring back to agenda once things settle out
- e. 3 Ledge – SOLD
- f. 38 Bray Road – Bank is listing the property, will sell as-is.

Public Comment/New Items:

Susan brought forth that there is a complaint of mold in the fire department building brought to the Select Board. Randy noted that now that FRCOG has been made aware via this meeting, he will arrange for an inspection. Barbara noted that there was also a complaint about animal damage/feces. **ACTION: Randy to contact Nick about doing an inspection.**

Next Meeting October 6, 2021 4:30 PM

Barbara moved to adjourn at 6:16; Susan seconded. Ayes: Gene, Susan, Barbara. Meeting Adjourned 6:16 PM.