

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
November 3, 2021, 3:30-5:00 PM
Meeting held via Zoom**

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

3:32 PM Meeting Called to Order (Garland chairing)

REVIEW AGENDA

- Barbara asked to add a discussion of a letter regarding Aborovirus testing

MINUTES

- October 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Barbara offered corrections. Susan moved to accept the October 13, 2021 minutes with corrections as stated by Barbara; Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene, Elissa

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Gene noted it has been a busy couple of weeks with the COVID cluster in town. He was not able to attend many meetings, but was able to attend the COVID update meeting.
- CPHS (Barbara Reporting):
 - Despite dropping levels of COVID in Franklin County, the CDC still lists this area as "Substantial Risk".
 - FRCOG is doing many flu vaccine clinics (has done 616 total vaccinations) and is willing to assist with more
 - FRCOG is willing to facilitate home vaccinations for flu or COVID
 - The Vax Bus will visit elementary schools in the area and to offer vaccines for children and their families. The Vax Bus will also offer vaccination and boosters for community members who do not have children in school. Bus will be at Hawlemont on 11/28 and BSE on 12/2. 2-1-1 call line for help with scheduling vaccinations for home-bound residents.
 - There was a straw poll done on dropping local mask mandates and the results were varied
- Well Testing – free well testing program for Heath residents. Properties with wells downstream from Heath Volunteer Fire Department and from the old landfill (South Road, shared by Heath/Hawley/Charlemont) have been identified and will be notified by mail. They will receive a test kit. Wells that test with PFOAS at a certain level will have to be remediated.

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATES

- Checking emails and phone – a few inquiries for 38 Bray Road
- MAHB Membership Renewed
- Septic Systems Permitting – tracking new requests via the Assessor's property transfer list and the FRCOG permit applications – will note where there are gaps.
- Kate noted that moves have happened, but there was not a lot of information about the moves; does not know when she will be moving. Kate to follow-up with Hilma.
- Barbara asked if we should have another number up for residents calling with time-sensitive issues. Randy stated we can list his numbers (cell and office). **ACTION: Kate to change the voicemail message to include Randy's numbers.**

NURSE UPDATES (Susan Gruen)

- Nurses Report – October (presented by Susan Gruen):
- 253 vaccines done at Mohawk.
- Claire will be out from 11/9 – 11/11; Susan will be back-up.
- Susan gathering information about COVID vaccinations and will prepare a robo-call

FRCOG Updates (Randy Crochier)

- Introduced new health agent, Kirk Schellenberg
- Have hired Maureen O'Reilly to do community health education/contact tracing/epidemiology.
- Attended conference for Massachusetts Health Agents.
- Mask Updates: Springfield and Montague lifted their mask mandates, Greenfield will change mandate to "recommendation". Charlemont, Shelburne, Buckland meeting to discuss.
- Property transfers without Title V – Randy recommends that Kate get name of new owner and where the tax bill will go – can send a letter to that address
- Title V applications continue to be busy.
- Grant that brought in the new health agent requires someone to become a housing specialist – who will fill that position is to be determined.
- COVID numbers are much lower.
- Properties Under Review – no updates since the October 13 meeting.
 - 594 Route 8A
 - 612 Route 8A
 - 434 Route 8A
 - 7 Flagg Hill Extension
 - 25 West Branch Road
 - 141 Taylor Brook Road
- Property Transfers (septic evaluations) – no updates since the October 13 meeting.
 - 405 Route 8A
 - 391 Route 8A
 - 14 Knott Road
 - 3 Ledge

OLD BUSINESS

- Selectboard Appointments:
 - Still looking to reach out to Lorraine Berger to see if she would consider the appointment
 - Susan will reach out to Lorraine; advocates that someone with mental health background will be beneficial to the board.
 - Select Board has changed their procedure - if Lorraine is interested, she will need to re-send a letter of interest and CV showing her qualifications directly to the Select Board
 - Gene to follow up with Hilma to confirm if Casey formally declined the appointment.
- Monthly Reports/Updates to Selectboard: Gene followed up with Mary to see how this was done. She indicated there was not a lot to report, typically. She suggested a quarterly report. Elissa advocated for monthly report, noting that there is a lot from FRCOG (our health agents); Barbara agreed, noting the BoH attends a lot of meetings; Randy noted that FRCOG and Heath Board of Health are one in the same. The group agreed that there needs to be better cooperation and communication to be successful. **ACTION: Gene will coordinate with Kate to draft a "skeleton" report template to be used.**
- Godek complaint about standing water – Gene and Elissa met with Henry and J. Standing water very obvious even a few days after a rain. Roads have been regraded which may be causing issues. **ACTION: Gene is going to be sending photos to the Highway Department.** This should be a Highway Department fix. Barbara noted the Select Board should be copied.
- Heath Herald BOH Corner – Elissa is a member of the Herald's volunteer group. There is space for all town committees and boards to post. Elissa will put something together for the

December/January edition: vaccinations, healthy/safe holiday gathering

- Establishing Oversight Committee for COVID-19 Community Response – Barbara thinks we may not get buy-in at this point, but maybe we invite members of other groups in to discuss the mask mandate. Gene moved to have a special “town hall” meeting in two weeks with community stakeholders to discuss safely opening/moving forward with either Randy or Phoebe Walker as facilitator/moderator on Wednesday 11/17 (7PM). Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Gene, Elissa, Barbara. **ACTION: Members to send Gene ideas for agenda items, will coordinate with Kate to put it together.**
- COVID-19 Issues:
 - Cluster in Heath – 10 cases. 9 related to a gathering, 1 case independent. Three of four original cases were not vaccinated. All but one person were interviewed and people were going to get tested. Gene will follow up with Jeanette.

NEW BUSINESS

- Meeting in person at Community Hall – Gene asked if everyone is comfortable meeting on Zoom. Barbara advocated staying on Zoom through the holidays. Gene moved to table the discussion of in-person meetings until after 1/1/22. Seconded by Barbara. Ayes: Gene, Barbara, Susan, Elissa
- MVP meetings – Elissa attended and reported back that the portion of our community that is aging at home may need some additional support. Gene asked to revisit this in more depth next meeting.
- At-Risk residents list – Susan has not heard anything back from Emergency Management. Claire took on seven people on the list and Susan keeps in touch with the other 13. There are 12 on the list that may need follow-up. At least four people at risk are on Number Nine Road and do not answer their phone. Susan will follow-up with Sheila. Susan will distribute the list with suggested questions/inquiries to Elissa and Barbara.

ONGOING and SUSPENDED ITEMS

- 4 Apache Drive
- 20 Judd Road: update on Order to Correct
- 21/27 West Brook trash issue
- Abandoned and dilapidated buildings project – will bring back to agenda once things settle out
- 3 Ledge – SOLD
- 38 Bray Road – Bank is listing the property, will sell as-is (uninhabitable). Recommended that there be a well test in addition to the required Title V inspection.

Public Comment/New Items:

- Building Use Committee: with mask mandate, can people eat in a common setting (for example: Dining with History) – yes, people can remove mask to eat. Currently no capacity limits. There are recommendations that doors and windows be opened, but it is not required.
- Idling signs have arrived, but there is no date for install yet. Gene will follow-up.
- Letter from Barbara Gordon to State Representatives. Barbara suggested Gene moved that we present the letter to the select board for signature and send (regardless of Select Board meeting). Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Gene, Barbara, Elissa. **ACTION: Barbara to send letter to the BOS for discussion at their next meeting.**

Next Meetings:

Special Town Hall Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7:00 PM

Monthly Board of Health Meeting: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Susan moved to adjourn at 5:19 PM; Barbara seconded. Ayes: Gene, Susan, Barbara, Elissa. Meeting Adjourned 5:19 PM.