

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2021, 3:30-5:00 PM
Meeting held via Zoom**

Board members present: Lorraine Berger, Barbara Gordon, Susan Gruen, Gene Garland, Randy Crochier (FRCOG), Elissa Viarengo, Kate Peppard (Clerk)

3:30 PM Meeting Called to Order (Garland chairing)

REVIEW AGENDA

- Add to the agenda: Home COVID tests from the State; update on idling; Mosquito Control meeting (Barbara)

MINUTES

- Minutes reviewed from November 3, 2021, Barbara offered corrections. Susan moved to accept the minutes with corrections as stated by Barbara; Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene, Elissa; Abstention: Lorraine (not present for the meeting).
- November 17, 2021: Barbara offered corrections. Barbara moved to accept the minutes with corrections as stated by Barbara; Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene, Elissa. Abstention: Lorraine (not present for the meeting)
- December 1, 2021. Barbara offered corrections. Barbara moved to accept the minutes with corrections as stated by Barbara; Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene, Elissa, Lorraine

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- MDPH (Mass Department of Public Health): receive information from the state on various public health
- LBOH (Local Board of Health): monthly round table meetings that help disseminate information from the MDPH. Gene has been attending.
- MAPHCO (Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition): Discussing area response to public health issues, currently COVID (vaccines, testing, mandates, distribution of information, etc.).
- Gene noted that Emergency Management from Heath has not been attending the MAPHCO calls
- COVID Collaboration Meeting – Gene felt it went well and received positive feedback. Will discuss later in the meeting.

PORTA-POTTY APPLICATION

- Jenny Hamilton presented the Mohawk Estates request
 - Have had a porta-potty there for the past three years for extended period of time
 - Have an ongoing dam project, usually have work done in the winter (engineers, contractors)
 - Planned to have two skating parties planned (COVID dependent)
 - Have had difficulty scheduling/holding board meetings; scheduled an emergency board meeting recently
 - Have Carson Cans coming weekly to clean and sanitize
- Susan noted that there are concerns with the porta-potty being open to all members, might encourage people who do not have other services staying up there
- Lorraine asked for clarification whether this will be there for resident use; Jenny noted that is not the intention, it is for the events.

- Jenny noted that it will be removed if COVID spikes again and transmission concerns increase the porta-potty will be removed
- Barbara noted that during the early phases of COVID that there were concerns about people being in their seasonal residences at Mohawk Estates
 - Jenny noted that the by-laws are clear: owners can use the property they own whenever they want (150 days in the year, 30 days consecutively). The only “seasonal” property is the Rec Hall due to lack of heat.
 - People are responsible for their own trash (year-round)
 - Dumping station is closed for the season (due to freezing pipes). Campers have their own holding tanks.
- Barbara moved to have Kate sign on behalf of the board (noting the voice vote and amend the Mohawk Estates porta-potty use to end on 4/15/22 ; Lorraine seconded.
 - YEAS: Lorraine, Gene, Barbara
 - NAYS: none
 - ABSTENTIONS: Elissa, Susan
 - Motion carried with majority vote in favor of the permit being issued with amendments.

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATES

- Checking emails and phone – Two calls in: report on property 594 8A, question on support for septic repair.
- Septic Systems Permitting – tracking new requests via the Assessor’s property transfer list and the FRCOG permit applications – am noting where there are gaps.
- The Board asked about the Clerk desk moving and whether Kate should get a new printer. Agreed she should not get a new printer if she is moving near the town’s multi-functional device.
- Barbara noted that we still need the template for BOH report to the BOS. **Kate to write up the draft.**

NURSE REPORT

- Folks went to the hospital/nursing homes and are back home; Susan and Victoria Burrington (Council on Aging) have been communicating about this
- In touch with Shari Hager about getting kids/adults vaccinated; have been distributing information about the Vax Bus (12/21/21) and testing opportunities

FRCOG Updates (Randy Crochier)

- A lot of new COVID cases; FRCOG continuing to contact trace
- Two new cases:
 - Financial assistance needed for a couple who need help fixing their septic system
 - New case
- 3 Ledge Road – met with new property owner; can move the septic now that barn is gone
- 594 8A – ongoing issues; have additional items have come up
- 612 8A – Bruce has left the property
- 434 8A – ongoing work project, have not checked on building permit
- 7 Flagg Hill – still needs to contact the owner
- 25 West Branch – will need to follow up
- Branch Hill Road – need direction from Select Board on Fire Station
- 38 Bray Road – town is listed as the owner on the Registry of Deeds; a lot of trash has been reported on the property; real estate sign has been taken down. Randy does not have authority to go onto the property; Elissa noted that you can see it from the Viarengo property (need authority granted from Bob and Del Viarengo).
- Governor Baker has distributed free BINAX NOW testing kits to 102 communities for disadvantaged people. FRCOG will be distributing the kits. May be using senior centers/meals

on wheels to distribute. There are 180 tests (90 kits) available per community. Will be discussing this with the nine communities receiving the tests after the Thursday LBOH call.

- Barbara noted that we should get these distributed prior to the holiday; Barbara suggested that we have another meeting prior to the holidays
- Randy noted that these tests are aimed for people who cannot afford home tests and who cannot get to testing sites
- Heath BOH to meet 8:00 PM Monday night to discuss distribution and feedback from Thursday meeting. **ACTION: Gene to set up a Zoom meeting. Kate to post.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Clarification of Mask Mandate (eating in public buildings); Barbara wants to do this in conjunction with the BOS. Mandate currently states we can remove the mask to eat at a restaurant/bar. Need to adjust this to accommodate people eating in public buildings. Want to be on same page as BOS and Building Use Committee. Gene suggested that this should be discussed among the COVID Collaboration Committee. Susan noted that Jonathan is renting space at 18 Jacobs Road and the lease is being worked through. BOS holds long-term leases, and the Building Use Committee deals with short-term rentals.
 - Gene asked that the BOH discuss this at Monday's special meeting. Will need someone from BOH to represent on the COVID Collaboration Committee and get started at the start of the holidays. Barbara noted we can bring that information to the Tuesday Select Board meeting (Gene representing the BOH at the meeting).
- MVP meetings – Elissa attended and reported back that the portion of our community that is aging at home; this population may need some support. Reported that assistance can be stepped up for vulnerable residents in a number of areas (e.g., transportation to doctors and for errands, meal distribution, clinic offerings, etc.). Council on aging has the pulse on this and noted that there may be room for BOH to help out with this.
- Barbara moved to shift stipend payments to annual; Susan seconded. **ACTION: Kate to inform the accountant of the change. Kate to contact board members individually about whether they want to receive the stipend.**
- 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
- CPHS – Barbara reported that the last meeting was some time ago, no need to update.
- Derelict properties: Barbara noted from the CPHS meeting that Heath is registered to participate in the neighborhood renewal program for derelict properties. Have to put a list together and then inventory the properties. Randy concurred and elaborated on how this is handled.

OLD BUSINESS

- 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.**
- 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 –. **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.

- At-Risk residents list – on-going (Susan)

Public Comment/New Items:

- Idling signs have arrived, but there is no date for install yet. Gene will follow-up.
- Remaining agenda items tabled:

ONGOING & SUSPENDED

- 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
- 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.

Next Meetings:

- **Monthly Board of Health Meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2021 3:30 – 5:00 PM**

Barbara moved to adjourn at 5:18 PM; Susan seconded. Ayes: Gene, Susan, Barbara, Elissa, Lorraine.
Meeting Adjourned 5:19 PM.