

# BOARD OF HEALTH



TOWN OF HEATH  
Massachusetts

## MINUTES for HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH MONTHLY MEETING Held March 3, 2022, 9:00 – 10:30 AM Remote Meeting via Zoom

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

- I. Meeting called to order 9:00 AM (Garland)
- II. Agenda reviewed. No new items added.
- III. **Review/approval of minutes:**
  - a. Gene moved to accept the January 5, 2022 minutes as previously amended. Barbara seconded. Ayes: Gene, Barbara, Susan, Elissa, Lorraine
  - b. Gene moved to accept the February 3, 2022 minutes as previously amended. Barbara seconded. Ayes: Gene, Barbara, Susan, Elissa, Lorraine
  - c. Susan offered amendments to the February 25, 2022 special meeting minutes. Gene moved to accept the February 25, 2022 special meeting minutes as amended. Barbara seconded. Ayes: Gene, Barbara, Susan, Elissa, Lorraine
- IV. **Chairman's Report**
  - A. The board discussed the meeting obligations and who is attending:
  - B. MDPH – Weekly call in webinars attended by Gene,
  - C. MAPHCO – Every other week, emergency management, Gene attends
  - D. CPHS Oversight Board: Monthly - Barbara (Susan as back-up)
  - E. LBOH monthly Roundtable meetings: Lorraine offered to attend (First Mondays 5:00 PM)
- V. **Board of Health Clerk Update**
  - a. A few phone calls and emails came in, most notably a noise complaint about logging happening all hours on Number Nine Road. The complaint was passed along to Randy.
  - b. The BOH Annual Report is due 3/18/22. ACTION: Kate to draft the report and send to the board for review.
  - c. Monthly report for BOS: Kate will be working to get updates from the BOH by the end of the month for a written report submitted to the BOS mid-month. The report will also be available to the BOH rep before they represent us at the BOS meeting. This is to be done regularly.
- VI. **Nurses Report/Nursing issues**
  - a. Susan presented Claire's February Nurse Report and her revised proctored municipal employee Rapid Antigen COVID testing program protocol that she

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developed with Claire and Meg Ryan (FRCOG). Claire and Susan have been trained to use the on-line State reporting system required for administering the tests.

### **VII. Regional Health Agent Updates**

- a. FRCOG Updates – The agency is shifting away from contact tracing and can begin to get caught back up on their other obligations. Routine contact tracing ended March 1. They will continue to follow up on some cases as they feel are indicated. Randy followed up on a noise complaint from overnight logging on Number Nine road and intends to visit the site. Randy updated us on the current status of mask mandates in other FRCOG member communities. Many will be rescinding their mandates on 3/7/22. Deerfield dropped theirs on 2/28/22. Ashfield is rescinding on 3/14/22. Rowe continues to maintain theirs for now but is dropping the requirement for school when children are outside. Randy negotiated with all Mohawk School District towns that host school buildings. They all agreed to wait until March 7<sup>th</sup> before considering dropping the mandate. He agrees that waiting for data until March 14<sup>th</sup> would be more ideal.
- b. Properties Under Review by Randy/FRCOG
  - i. 3 Ledge Road – Septic and electrical work in process
  - ii. 594 Route 8A – Following up on citizen complaint entered February 2022
  - iii. 612 Route 8A – camper on property – property sold (?)
  - iv. 434 Route 8A – roof repair/home condition – no updates.
  - v. 7 Flag Hill Extension – Excessive trash – Kurt will follow up in the spring.
  - vi. 25 West Branch Road – Septic design & build follow up needed – Housing loan program may be of benefit here. CDBG program, 0% loan, no payments due until sell the house, 50% forgiven if the loan recipient maintains the home for 10-15? Years.

### **VIII. New Business**

1. BOH Facebook Updates – Elissa to post information that is approved for public dissemination by the Board and FRCOG (such as VAX bus flyers)
2. Abandoned/Derelict Building Inventory – This is an inventory undertaken to help mitigate blight, more than public safety/health risks. Randy noted that the buildings are often identified by the BOH, but that it is decision by multiple town stakeholders (fire department and police are encouraged to contribute to identification of properties). Gene believes that there was a prior list of identified buildings started previously. He will research his emails for it.
3. Healthy Aging Communities – Susan has the surveys delivered by Meg Ryan which were to be picked up and distributed by the Council on Aging, but still have not been picked up. The survey ends mid-month. She will be meeting with the Council and will give them the information directly then.

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4. Gene will be out of town March 13-19<sup>th</sup> and March 23-27<sup>th</sup>. He needs another BOH member to provide local coverage during that time. Not assigned at meeting. He will contact members again as needed to fulfill before his departure.

### IX. **Old/Ongoing Business:**

1. Monthly Reports/Updates to Select Board
2. CPHS Oversight Board ~~Heath District~~ Meeting and CPHS Local BOH Roundtable meetings: Barbara attended both meetings recently. Highlights from the CPHS meeting: A State Bill is working its way through the House and Senate that will bring new requirements for Local BOH competency. Once passed, all members will be required to have completed training through the already available on-line course, ***Foundations of Local Public Health***. This is presented in modules that can be completed individually over time. It is a lengthy course and members are encouraged to get started in this process. Link is available on the FRCOG website under Roundtable materials. Additionally, there are two upcoming FRCOG *Power Hour 4-5 PM* trainings recommended. Randy indicates that we should have at least one representative from our Board at each. The first is on March 10<sup>th</sup> re the Neighborhood Renewal/Abandoned properties program. The second is on March 30<sup>th</sup> regarding the Private Well testing Bill. FRCOG is developing their own WELL TESTING policy that will come to us for approval and adoption over the next 2-4 months. Once adopted, we will need to file with the State through the DEP. Heath has shown 0% Room Tax Revenue for 2020. Unclear if this is because there have been no short-term rentals, or if they are not being documented / reported / collected. DOR does the collections for the Towns. Short term rentals are supposed to be permitted and then inspected by FRCOG Health agents to insure clean, safe, potable drinking water, functional waste systems etc for public safety.

ROUND TABLE abbreviated report: The State is making available free surplus PPE and other supplies for Municipal and Non-Profit organization use. First come, first serve. Coming from MEMA and other sources, but one common form for requesting. BOH members reviewed the form sent out by Barbara prior to the meeting and agreed to order N95 masks, and KN95 masks. Susan will check with Claire and we might add infrared thermometers and gloves to the order. Barbara will place order and travel to collect the shipment as required. Delivery vs collection is unclear and will depend upon the source of each item. There also might be a pulse oximeter available for us at no cost through the PHE Grant. FRCOG is exploring and will let us know if available. Susan says that we have ONE but could use another.

3. Mosquito Control District – Barbara is still awaiting the promised updated guidance from the State on the Opt Out of aerial spraying public education

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report submission. The entire program is under review for major changes via Bills moving through the House.

4. Heath Herald BOH Corner – Elissa submitted an article that she wrote jointly with Lorraine for the current issue. It was suggested that the June issue focus on ticks/mosquitoes. Barbara offered to help write the article.
5. MVP Meetings - No meetings have been held recently. Elissa has requested a copy of the report from the Fall meetings but has not heard back.
6. COVID-19 Issues for Discussion
  - a. The BOH agreed unanimously to hold a special meeting on 3/14 to review updated local COVID statistics and determine whether to lift the mask mandate at that time. When we do drop the mandate, FRCOG is willing to print up new signage for us with our preferred wording for masking suggestions/recommendations/advisory.
  - b. Rapid Antigen Testing for town employees – Susan Gruen and Claire have been trained and have written up a program that has been submitted to the Select Board for implementation. Susan needs a list of municipal employees (full and part time) from Hilma. The State has approved this program for full and part time municipal employees.
  - c. COVID Collaboration Committee – Gene has determined that he does not have the time to shepherd this planned initiative. Susan Gruen suggested as an alternative that we ~~will~~ hold a 15 minute open session at the beginning of each BOH meeting to address issues related to COVID and Heath in particular. **ACTION: Kate to outreach to stakeholders to invite them to these monthly pre- meeting sessions. Separate notes will be taken for that section of the meetings. Susan Gruen to take notes for April. Individuals unable to attend will be welcome to submit their questions prior to the meetings and the notes with answers can be provided after the meetings.**
  - d. Review in-person meeting transition –Barbara brought up that she would like the BOH to consider making a formal recommendation to the BOS to require that all town committees and boards develop or maintain remote meeting options to allow for the general public to participate without needing to be physically present. Even after July 15<sup>th</sup>, when the remote meeting variance from the State expires, the technology is now well entrenched and will provide much improved universal accessibility to Town governance for those with health risks or other barriers to physical attendance. The BOH agreed to take this up formally at an upcoming meeting.

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- X. **Suspended/Ongoing:**
  - e. 4 Apache Drive
  - f. 20 Judd Road: update on Order to Correct
  - g. 21/27 West Brook trash issue
  - h. Abandoned and dilapidated buildings project
  - i. 38 Bray – FOR SALE
  - j. Future BOH meetings at Community Hall
  - k. Mohawk Estates Porta-Potty – with Planning Board
- XI. Public Comment – None
- XII. Gene moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 AM. Seconded by Barbara. Ayes: Lorraine, Elissa, Gene, Susan, Barbara. Meeting Adjourned 11:02.

Meeting minutes taken by Kate Peppard, BOH Clerk, revised by Barbara Gordon, BOH Member.

Minutes Approved: April 7, 2022

Minutes Approved by: Gene Garland, Lorraine Berger, Barbara Gordon, Susan Gruen, Elissa Viarengo