

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH MONTHLY MEETING**  
**Meeting Minutes - April 7, 2022**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

Members In Attendance: Gene Garland (chair), Lorraine Berger, Susan Gruen, Elissa Viarengo, Randy Crochier (FRCOG)

Member in attendance (not participating): Barbara Gordon

- I. Meeting Called to Order 9:00 AM (Gene)**
- II. COVID Collaboration Meeting (Susan Gruen led the discussion)**
  - a. Discussion of COVID related items: mask mandate, vaccination programs. Separate minutes will be issued for this portion of the meeting, to be distributed to stakeholders. Special discussion closed at 9:13 AM.
- III. BOH Monthly meeting agenda reviewed 9:14 AM.**
- IV. Review/approve minutes of March 3 and March 15, 2022**
  - a. Susan offered date corrections for minutes.
  - b. Gene moved to approve as corrected, seconded by Elissa. AYES: Gene, Lorraine, Susan, Elissa.
- V. Chairperson's Report (Gene)**
  - A. Review of MDPH – meeting has shifted to every other week,
  - B. MAPHCO meeting Monday 4/11
  - C. Monthly LBOH Calls – Lorraine to update under on-going business
- VI. Board of Health Clerk Update (Kate)**
  - a. No unusual communications this past month
  - b. FY22 Budget – on-target, have asked for an invoice for tick testing reimbursement program
  - c. Annual Report – Did many revisions, will post the original annual report on the website.
  - d. Property Transfers, Well, Pumping, Title V Reports – still working on getting caught up
  - e. Monthly report for BOS meeting – Kate called for items, will submit to BOS for mid-April meeting
  - f. Discussion of Town All-Boards Clerk. BOS is planning on a 10 hour/week position to cover BOH, Planning Board and two other boards. Gene's concern this may not be enough hours. Gene looked for feedback.
    - i. Elissa expressed concern that this is not enough time, and that scheduling meetings could be difficult.
    - ii. Gene noted that Barbara was in on most of the meeting and could respond
    - iii. Kate noted she will not be continuing in the role past June, so this will be good timing for someone to come into the role; expressed concern it will be more difficult as we move back to in-person meetings. Agreed that 10 hours may be limiting.
    - iv. Lorraine agreed that 10 hours is not enough
    - v. Susan noted that if we feel this is not enough hours we should write a letter
    - vi. Gene to draft a letter for BOS with BOH concerns/thoughts.
  - g. **Nurse Report (Susan)**
    - i. Three emergency hospitalizations
    - ii. Have not done any COVID testing this past month
    - iii. Susan did a lecture for Council on Aging identifying 15 things to identify at-risk people
- VII. Regional Health Agent Updates (Randy)**

- a. FRCOG Organizational Updates
  - i. Nurses and EPI staff are busy with education and communication for vaccination information. Have reached out to Hawlemont about using the building. Nurses are adjusting to a more “traditional” public health work rather than 24 hour COVID work. Continuing at-home vaccinations (Wednesdays). Multiple training opportunities this spring that agents are attending.
  - ii. Oversight Board approved a revised fee schedule (better accounts for amount of time spent on the permits). Temp food permit is now \$100. April 28 meeting has been cancelled. After Action Report for FRCOGs response to the pandemic will be presented.
  - iii. Working with Buckland for a space in the village for home-base for West County representation. Hope for a set of nursing hours there for all of CPHS.
  - iv. Cannabis Farms coming into Heath – will need septic systems, and noted that the farms are all looking towards edibles. Looking to bring forward model cannabis regulations around food. There is a plan to mist lavender scented pest prevention – this needs to be regulated.
  - v. Kurt has been doing well on housing and will likely take this over from Randy.
- b. FRCOG Red Binders – one update. Randy has five binders on order for
- c. Properties Under Review by Randy/FRCOG
  - i. 3 Ledge Road – Randy looking to formally remove the condemnation. Move to on-going/suspended.
  - ii. 594 Route 8A – Citizen Complaint entered February 2022. Going up for Auction.
  - iii. 612 Route 8A – camper on property – camper is not occupied and they complied with BOH
  - iv. 434 Route 8A – roof repair/home condition – has a building permit, no longer under BOH jurisdiction. Randy will discuss with Jim Hawkins.
  - v. 7 Flag Hill Extension – Excessive trash; Randy and Kurt will visit/review. Owner often agrees/promises and does not follow up. Will meet, then send and order, then move to the courts.
  - vi. 25 West Branch Road – Septic design & build follow up needed. Randy has made his last effort, will issue a housing violation.

## **VIII. New Business**

- 1. Abandoned/Derelict Building Inventory
  - a. Corner of Taylor Brook and Flagg Hill (maybe 96 Taylor Brook) – Elissa asked whether this property has been abandoned, if FRCOG was aware. Randy will do some research on the deed.
  - b. 444 Route 8A – Susan requested this be added to the list
  - c. Randy to email a list of people FRCOG is communicating with to develop the list.
  - d. The process is that a town will develop list with group of town departments. FRCOG agents visit a property with an inventory sheet. Work with key stakeholders to prioritize the list. Randy advocates that you focus on the “low hanging fruit” – those properties that can more rapidly be repaired and brought back into use.
  - e. Eventually work with the Attorney General’s Office.

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

- 1. IDLING: Susan has sent three reminders about these signs, Gene to request.
- 2. Dog waste sign/bags – Susan asked that Kate follow up with Hilma
- 3. LBOH (Lorraine)

- a. 108 cases in a 2 week period, cases are going up but testing is going down
  - b. Heath had 0 cases at the time, though region is trending higher
  - c. Concern that people are not masking around immunocompromised
  - d. Testing centers are closing; can still get free home test kits. Insurance will reimburse 7 pcr tests/month
  - e. Be Smart Program – how to protect children around guns; presentation next month. Lorraine asked if we should do a presentation in Heath. Not political (person running the program, Robin, is a gun owner). Susan to follow-up with Hawlemont. Randy thought that it might be good to present it at the Heath Fair.
  - f. In-Person meetings will begin happening 7/15/22. Randy note that if the town has approved remote participation, you need to have a quorum in the room, chair must be in the room.
  - g. Private well testing bill. Randy clarified that there are no state-wide private well regulations. There are guidelines, but no requirement for testing.
4. CPHS Oversight Board Meeting
- a. Barbara sent in notes, Gene reviewed.
  - b. Focusing on communication outreach. Looking to develop list of topics to disseminate throughout the year (e.g., gun safety), map out communication infrastructure, consider ways to reach residents. Susan noted she can send the 14 items she provided to the Council on Aging.
  - c. Compile list for Barbara to send back to the meeting (send items into Kate to compile)
5. Mosquito Control District – no update
6. Heath Herald BOH Corner – current edition has article written by Lorraine/Elissa. Elissa will work with Barbara on the next issue for ticks/mosquitoes.
7. MVP Meetings - Elissa got an invitation for a meeting next week, but also has received emails with on-line surveys to gather questions/information. Not clear if the meeting is happening, but is in the loop.
8. BOH Facebook Updates:
- a. Free well testing
  - b. Second COVID Booster locations
  - c. Can post items that have been distributed by governmental agencies (without approval by the BOH).
9. In-Person meetings: will be required by the State after July. BOH will have the May meeting in person. Next meeting is 9:00 AM 5/5/22. Randy recommends keeping the schedule to Thursday 9:00 AM through the end of the fiscal year. Susan made a motion to hold the May 5, 2022 meeting in-person at the Community Hall, Lower Level. Seconded: Gene. AYES: Gene, Lorraine, Elissa, Susan. Kate to request the space through the Building Use Committee.

**X. Suspended/Ongoing:**

- 1. 4 Apache Drive
- 2. 20 Judd Road: update on Order to Correct
- 3. 21/27 West Brook trash issue
- 4. Mohawk Estates Porta-Potty – with Planning Board
- 5. 3 Ledges – in process of being removed from condemnation status

**Motion to adjourn 10:35 by Susan. Gene Seconded. Ayes: Gene, Lorraine, Susan, Elissa.**

*Meeting minutes taken by Kate Peppard, BOH Clerk*

*Approved on:*

*Approved by:*