

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH MONTHLY MEETING**  
**Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2022**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

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

- 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 9:59 AM.
- III. BOH Monthly meeting agenda reviewed 10:00 AM.**
- IV. Review/approve minutes of April 7, 2022**
  - a. Corrections offered
  - b. Elissa moved to approve as corrected, seconded by Susan. AYES: Gene, Lorraine, Susan, Elissa, Barbara abstained (absent from meeting).
- V. Chairperson's Report (Gene)**
  - A. Training opportunities through MAPHCO & MDPH – MAVEN and legal training and review.
  - B. Call for Data on incident command system training – Gene encourages members to attend trainings.
  - C. BOH Clerk – Kate is resigning as of end of June. All Boards Clerk still seems to be open. Sue Lively noted that the final decision will be after ATM to know if it has been approved. Susan Gruen noted that she would appreciate if whoever steps in is able to distribute the draft minutes promptly, outreach for agenda items. Susan suggested that meeting could be recorded if someone needs to do minutes outside of the time of the meeting.
  - D. Barbara is not renewing her appointment. Will need to recruit a new member for Barbara's seat. Sue Lively asked if there are skills or areas of expertise that BOH would like to see covered. Barbara has been responsible for zoonotic related public health issues. Will need liaison with PVMCD, someone to take over mosquito and tick disease monitoring and public education, as well to monitor the evolving State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board related "Opt out of Spraying" regulations and communicating changes and recommendations to BOH and SB . Also has been the Heath rep on CPHS Oversight Board and will need to transfer responsibility for 7 fragile households. Gene noted having someone from emergency services on board would be helpful. Appointed positions do not have to be town residents.
- VI. Board of Health Clerk Update (Kate)**
  - a. Have received a complaint regarding wellness (see FRCOG)
  - b. FY22 Budget – on-track.
  - c. Tick Report, Inc – need to clarify whether we still have a subsidized program. Need to get the information about subsidized testing for Heath residents. Need new educational/submission materials from "Tick Report" with updated contact information, and get this information posted. Kate agreed to sort this out. Barbara has a tick/mosquito box of materials that lives in the BOH office; any new materials can be added to this. State published materials were re-ordered this spring and the box has been replenished.
  - d. Property Transfers, Well, Pumping, Title V reports – will be focusing on property transfers.
  - e. Monthly report for BOS meeting – Kate called for items, will submit to BOS for May 17 meeting

**VII. Nurse Report (Susan)**

- a. Claire has been making home visits. Folks have been hospitalized. Some have been sent to nursing homes.
- b. No employees have come forward for testing.
- c. No MAVEN reported cases of COVID in town, but we do have COVID here that is not getting reported.

**VIII. Regional Health Agent Updates (Randy – absent from this portion, no updates received)**

- a. Properties Under Review by Randy/FRCOG
  - i. 594 Route 8A
  - ii. 612 Route 8A
  - iii. 434 Route 8A – building condition
  - iv. 7 Flag Hill Extension – excessive trash
  - v. Route 8A/Dell Road – excessive trash
  - vi. 25 West Branch Road – Septic design & build follow up needed.
  - vii. Wellness check on Heath resident requested

**IX. New Business**

- 1. Dog Waste Bag Dispenser (Kate/Susan) – Kate reviewed some of the previous concerns. Barbara stated that it would be helpful to have a waste dispenser. Susan offered to keep track of the bags. Susan moved that the Board of Health sponsor and fund the dog waste dispenser bag refills. Elissa seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene, Elissa, Lorraine.
- 2. PVMCD Spraying Opt-Out (Barbara) –
  - a. Barbara reviewed the history of the town's previous decision to opt-out. Heath ~~decided~~ Select Board filed application to opt-out of ONLY aerial spraying in 2021, but maintained a relationship with the State to do targeted ground spraying in the case of a State declared public health emergency. Required public education campaign was established, which Barbara fulfilled last year. Barbara has shared a draft of the proposed 2022 education program to be submitted with Opt-out application should we vote to recommend that the Select Board apply to opt-out again this year. Barbara advocated that we make the same "partial" opt-out of "aerial spraying only" recommendation to the SB again. The 2020 Legislature appointed "Mosquito Control for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Task Force" only completed their report and recommendations on March 22, 2022. There has not yet been time for the State to respond and implement their recommendations for developing safer and more effective mosquito control programs. Broad aerial spraying is not being recommended as safe or effective. Monitoring and larvicide would be more appropriate for Heath at this time in the absence of any positive testing mosquitoes detected in the past two years. By opting out ONLY from aerial spraying, if we see a risk rising to the level of a Public Health Emergency, targeted ground spraying could be still be implemented by the State.
  - b. Barbara moved that BOH makes a formal recommendation to BOS to file an application to opt-out of aerial spraying only with the State Reclamation Board. Seconded by Susan. Ayes: Susan, Lorraine, Elissa, Barbara, Gene. Barbara will forward the education plan to the BOS and will present the recommendation at the 5/17 meeting. The Select Board has the ultimate authority on this. Their choices will be: A. NO ACTION (State retains right to do ground or aerial spraying), B. File application to OPT OUT OF ALL STATE SPRAYING (Town then assumes logistical and financial responsibility for treatment program if Public Health Emergency develops), or C. File application to OPT OUT OF

AERIAL SPRAYING ONLY. If SB files application to Opt out in any fashion, and if the application is approved, BOH will assume responsibility for executing the submitted and required Public Education Program.

**X. Old/Ongoing Business:**

1. Red Binders (Randy – not present) – Elissa has a copy. Kate will coordinate with Randy to get binders at the June meeting.
2. LBOH (Lorraine)
  - a. Risk levels and decreased testing.
  - b. Access to anti-virals is now possible at Bakers and Big Y pharmacy
  - c. Private well testing bill did not make it out of committee
  - d. Be Smart gun safety program – designed to help responsible modeling for children and to safeguard guns in homes and cars. Do we want to put posters and brochures available in municipal buildings. Barbara asked if we could have an electronic link from our website, and facebook. Susan mentioned doing an article in the Heath Herald, perhaps interviewing Heath residents who have taken safety classes. Could have a table at the fair.
3. CPHS Oversight Board Meeting (Barbara) - Did not meet last month and requested that representatives attend the FRCOG oversight council meeting where the COVID after-action report was shared. Brian DeVries is Council Rep for Heath. Brian and Barbara attended. Nothing of relevance to our Board to report.
4. Heath Herald BOH Corner (Elissa) – Barbara has written and submitted the next article on mosquitoes and ticks. Article for fall could be about hunting season and gun safety.
5. MVP Meeting (Elissa) – most recent meeting was a review of the town's strengths and weaknesses in different categories. Emergency services is an area where we have some vulnerability, will be considering training additional people. Household disaster preparedness is an area to look into. Education about high winds. Elissa wants to update and distribute a pamphlet about how to be prepared. Follow up is a public hearing/public review of recommendations at the next BOS meeting (per Sue Lively). Susan Gruen has reviewed emergency issues with Council on Aging that require more public education related to gaps she had identified through conversations with our elderly citizens.
6. BOH Facebook Updates (Elissa) – a couple of messages came in. One regarding private well testing, another was a concern about a citizen. These have been referred to Randy.
7. In-Person meetings (All): Next meeting is 9:00 AM 6/2/22 via Zoom. ~~Meeting in person at the Community Hall, Lower Level.~~ Kate to book July meeting at Community Hall Upper Level. Barbara requests that we only meet in person if we can have a hybrid option. Decision will be made over the next month.

**XI. 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 Road

**Motion to adjourn 11:39 by Susan. Barbara Seconded. Ayes: Gene, Lorraine, Susan, Elissa, Barbara**

*Meeting minutes taken by Kate Peppard, BOH Clerk*

*Approved by Heath Board of Health as revised in 6/2/2022 BOH monthly meeting*