

Board of Health
Minutes
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
9:00 – 11:00 am
Community Hall – 1 West Main Street

Meeting was called to order at 9:06 am

Members present: Gene Garland (chairperson), Susan Gruen, Lorraine Berger, Elissa Viarengo

COVID Collaboration member: Sue Lively

- Covid Collaboration update:
 - At the time of this meeting, Franklin County is at Moderate Risk of transmission according to the CDC. Levels are reassessed every Friday.
 - There are several cases of COVID reported in town
 - Test kits are continually given out and we have 80 left. It is not known if we will continue to receive additional test kits.
 - A reminder to residents that individual health insurance companies will pay for 8 test kits a month.
 - “COVID Collaboration” can now be called “COVID Update” as there is no need for further collaboration of efforts at this time.
- Review of 1/11/23 minutes
 - Gene Garland made a motion to accept the 1/11/23 minutes as written. Elissa Viarengo seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor.
- Chairman’s Report
 - Gene will be meeting with Alice, BOH Clerk, soon to establish a work flow
 - Gene has still not heard back from Pioneer Valley Mosquito District about the BOH’s overpayment of \$4,000. Sue Lively offered to follow up with this, as Select person.
 - Gene has not attended any MPCHO meetings as he has been out of town.
- Regional Health Agent Updates
 - No updates were given as Kurt was not able to attend because of whether related issues.
 - Gene will forward to Kurt the email from the Town Clerk, Mary Sumner, regarding the confusion over 160 / 161 / 162 classifications of residence and septic systems. Susan Gruen requested that reports submitted from others include their name and date of submission for proper record keeping. Gene will follow up with Mary Sumner about adding her name and date to her email.
- New Business
 - Porta Potty application for 3 Mohawk Beach Drive. This is the annual request that Gene will sign and give to Alice.
 - Nurses Report. Susan Gruen and Nurse Claire Rabbit get together at least once a week. There are three patients in the hospital and Claire is making home visits. Due to the flood in Community Hall, Balance classes needed to be canceled. Susan was able to contact attendees to notify them. Sue Lively inquired about the Nurse’s job description and how old it is, acknowledging that the need in town is more geared towards home service these days since we have been eliminated from most of the home service organizations that are located in Greenfield and Deerfield. She would like to bring this

up to the select board to discuss if we need to accommodate the services are needed in our town. A list should be created of the current duties of our town nurse and what Claire Rabbit thinks the town nurse should be able to offer in way of services.

- Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.
 - Alice has some purchases that will be upcoming.
 - There have been no BOH expenses this year and there are no known major expenses coming up. There may be a minor expense for prepayment of Tick Report tests. Phoebe Walker at FRCOG is trying to confirm out status with the lab as far as what we have paid in the past and how many prepaid tick reports we may have.
 - CODE RED services and expenses should be reevaluated for a lesser price and for only the services we need. Susan Gruen will report back on perhaps collaborating with other towns on services.
 - Gene made a motion to approve the budget as written, Elissa seconded it. There was no discussion. All were in favor.
- Clerk Report
 - BOH office has moved across the atrium and is getting settled in.
 - We need to establish a long-term meeting schedule so she can post it for continuity. The second Wednesday of every month at 9 am is the standard. Gene will be gone for the summer, but we may be able to meet via zoom if there is an extension for remote meetings.
 - Susan Gruen has asked that Alice sign and date her report.
- Ongoing Business
 - Local Board of Health Report. Lorraine Berger attended the monthly meeting. She will fill out the survey regarding the opiate settlement. The town will be receiving \$150. Lorraine asked if we had Narcan. It will be voted on at Annual Town Meeting about the \$150 should be used. There is the option of pooling the funds with other towns for educational training.
 - CPHS Oversight Board Meeting. Susan Gruen reported that they are now looking at a 4% increase in budget. Part of the increase will be for Meg Ryan and her work with the Council of Aging for dementia, depression, and housing. FRCOG got the contract to be a regional training center, including Serve Safe. Kurt is now certified to do septic system inspections.
 - Heath Herald BOH Corner and MVP Meeting. Elissa Viarengo recommends for the next issue of the Heath Herald doing an article on what the BOH does and that we are looking for new Board members. MVP meetings are done and should be removed from the agenda.
 - Mosquito update: Elissa Viarengo will proceed with working with Pioneer Valley Mosquito District and pursuing the opt out program from aerial spraying for the town as we have done in the years past. Opting out does not happen until May but residents go on line now and opt out of spraying for their personal properties.
- Adjourn. Susan Gruen made a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:58 am, Elissa Viarengo seconded it. No discussion. All in favor.