

## Town of Heath Board of Health

### minutes of virtual meeting held: September 13, 2023

The Heath Board of Health meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by chair, Gene Garland with members Susan Gruen and Sheila Litchfield also in attendance as well as Select Board representative Elissa Viarengo.

Review of Minutes: minutes of 7/12/23 were reviewed and unanimously approved as submitted.

Regional Agent Report: Kurt Schellenberg, Health Agent joined the meeting at 9:10am with Jasmine Ward.

1. Jasmine Ward was introduced; full time health inspector; 9 years public health experience; will focus on food service and school inspections.
2. Status on property issues:
  - 114 Sadoga-sold on April 2022; title 5 enforcement letter sent
  - 594 Route 8A
  - 25 W. Branch – title 5 enforcement letter sent
  - 391 Route 8A – title 5 permit pulled with FRCOG; fee not paid
  - 405 Route 8A – repair permit began with FRCOG
  - 435 Route 8A- letter of noncompliance sent
  - 160 Colrain Stage Rd. – BOH issued temp occupancy permit but Town Clerk has full time resident for voting at location/can't be both; no septic records found.
  - 7 Flagg Hill Ext.- excessive trash reported; violation letter sent to property owner
3. Other: BOH members can get trained to access data and permit status in FRCOG database.

### New Business:

1. Board Clerk report was reviewed, reports problems with Access database. No permits in Sept. Board expressed concerns for brevity of report and lack of detail.
2. Nurses report for July – report reviewed; Gruen reported the nurse is administering flu vaccine for residents and plans a clinic for Oct 7 at Jacobs Rd.
3. Clerk's job description – table until Gene meets with Clerk.
4. REPC meeting – Litchfield attended 9/12/23; discussing next steps following AAR; what works best for collaboration and support locally/regionally.

### Ongoing Business:

1. COVID 19 update (Gruen/Litchfield) – Covid cases are increasing in town; plan to submit clinic info to Herald when dates are available; call our list of homebound to ensure connections for vaccine; CHPS nurses visiting homebound to administer vaccine; FRCOG is awaiting DPH finding for large clinics.
2. Opioid settlement (Gruen)- Heath getting \$500
3. CHPS (Gruen/Litchfield) – meets 9/28/23, Litchfield attending.
4. Herald (Litchfield)- Nov 5 is the due date for Dec-Jan issue. Too soon to promote mosquito eradication.

5. PVMCD (Gruen) – John Briggs with the PVMCD joined the meeting; reports anticipating an increase in EEE next year due to rainfall this year.; vector can fly up to 5 miles for a blood meal; cattail swamps are the habitat; discussed how to prepare and inform residents – the district will prepare material and disseminate it; we can post in Herald and by other means; encourage getting rid of tires as a water reservoir and treating catch basins with larvicide.
6. FRCOG roundtable (Gruen)
7. MAPHCO (Gruen)
8. Training to do Reverse 911 calls – Litchfield volunteered to get the training and will contact Hilma.
9. Collaboration with BOS, Planning Board regarding management/enforcement of bylaws on mobile units (all) – Gruen and Litchfield met with Planning Board and Board of Selectmen on 9/5/23; scope of problems discussed, brainstormed some interesting ideas; needs further discussion; problem may be with enforcement rather than with the bylaws.

Other business: none

Next meeting: October 11, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Litchfield  
Heath Board of Health