

Heath Board of Health Minutes  
October 11, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

Present: Gene Garland, Chair; Susan Gruen, Sheila Litchfield, Elissa Viarengo, Kurt Schellenberg, Jasmine Ward, John Briggs and a brief appearance by Randy Crochier.

Minutes: The Minutes of July 12<sup>th</sup> were amended with a few minor corrections. Gene Garland moved to approve the minutes of July 12<sup>th</sup> with amendments, Susan Gruen seconded. Passed unanimously.

Introduction: Randy Crochier popped on with Jasmine Ward, new health agent for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCoG). Jasmine introduced herself and gave her background in public health. She previously worked for the City of Northampton and is now working towards her soil evaluation license and Title 5 experience with FRCoG.

Health Agent updates: Kurt Schellenberg gave an update on the following properties:

- 114 Sadoga Rd. Kurt had been sending the information to the previous owner, Ryan Archambault but now has contact for the new owner, Jeffrey Jordan.
- 25 West Branch Rd.-Enforcement Orders have been sent.
- 391 Route 8A-Kurt gave a brief overview of the actions that have taken place up to this point. Todd Gerry has been served by the sheriff's office with an Enforcement Order on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Title 5 has been applied for and finally paid for. Title 5 is scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 405 Route 8A- Brendan Gerry knew that the septic system was not in compliance, and he is jumping right into the perc test.
- Flagg Hill Extension-the owner doesn't have the resources to clean up the trash & debris on his property. There's a group in Greenfield who may be able to help.
- 435 Route 8A-Ownership questions but believe it's Louise Wright. Kurt will follow up that the letters have been sent out to correct owners.

Sheila said that a good resource list would be helpful so that the Board of Health can aid property owners in getting in compliance. A list of metal collectors was available when the BOH turned over junk cars to Selectboard. Hilma may have that list.

The joint meeting with the Selectboard and Planning Board was a good start. Very positive meeting and listening to what other towns are doing. Perhaps an in-person meeting and if you want to look at compliance it's important not to scare off the owners. Susan stated that the town needs to be prepared for the legal fees and FRCoG is not absorbing those.

Opioid settlement funds-Gene said that the town has received one payment. Susan & Kurt said that they thought Heath decided to pool the Heath funds with others to do an education program but needed follow up.

Reverse 911-Gene wants to get more information on how to get a message out in case the BOH needs it. Who is the back up to Hilma? Tim is the backup as the Emergency Management Director. Sheila noted that it's the Selectboard's jurisdiction, but we can weigh in on how to get the Board of Health messages out.

Review of BOH clerk position- Gene wants to table until he has time to meet with Alice Wozniak, clerk. A discussion ensued with Alice possibly taking minutes, investigate a new computer due to its health and have her give a budget update.

Nurse's Report-Susan has been meeting with Claire Rabbitt. We have plenty of masks but no COVID test kits. Vaccines have been delivered to the post office and Susan has them at her house. She noted that several people are quite sick.

Clerk's Report-No comments.

MAPHCO-Gene hasn't been able to attend. Kurt said that Randy encourages local board of health departments to utilize.

COVID 19 Report-New COVID vaccine may be another week before it's ready. RSV vaccines can only be administered by your physician. Sheila is looking to do a clinic at the Charlemont Federated Church. COVID 19 reporting is so different due to lack of data and it's hard to assess risk without it. People can wear masks if they wish. Susan is working with homebound people in conjunction with Lisa White, FRCoG Nurse.

CPHS Update Meeting-Some towns are working on bylaw updates, noise.

John Briggs-Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) representative, John Briggs gave an update on the mosquito issues that he has seen. Northern Franklin County has a lot less mosquito issues than the southern portions of Franklin County, related to the urban areas, pavement, etc. Due to the drought last year, the breeding grounds for the mosquitos were minimized but are expected to be back in full force next year due to increased rain this year. If the PVMCD can add more towns to their program, then it will offset the increased costs of the program.

Heath Herald-Sheila wanted to post something about the clinic but since the date isn't confirmed it's not likely this time. Elissa mentioned it might be able to add to the Heath Herald calendar.

FRCoG Roundtable-Susan gave a brief update on it; discussion on opioid money & zip codes.

Susan Gruen moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:39. Sheila seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Wozniak