

Town of Heath Board of Health

Minutes of 11/8/23

The Heath Board of Health was called to order at 9:02 am by chair, Gene Garland with members Susan Gruen and Sheila Litchfield present, as well as Elissa Viarengo from the Selectboard and Randy Crochier and Jasmine Ward from FRCOG.

Review of Minutes: October minutes were not submitted for review at this meeting; Gene will reach out to the clerk.

Regional Health Agent Report: Randy attending in place of Kurt, does not have full report available on status of compliance. BOH requested a written report from Kurt.

1. Randy reported a call he received from Hilma Sumner indicating Bill Lattrell concerned about a sand pit digging in proximity to the Municipal Building. Randy's inspection indicated that the digging was ok, however Randy suggested the Town manage the grass mowing on the leach field to reduce risk of roots compromising the field. He suggested mowing at least twice annually.
2. Gene raised concerns about 160 Colrain Stage Rd. BOH is carrying it as having a temporary occupancy permit. BOH will contact the Town Clerk to determine the status of the property.
3. Susan asked if FRCOG was aware of and able to do anything about the way the opioid settlement money was distributed based on zip codes. FRCOG is aware and to be determined by Phoebe Walker as well as us have been advocating to select boards working with boards of health asking them to advocate that this is obviously a public health issue and Board of Health should have input. Randy suggested to reach out to Phoebe and ask her to reach out to to your select board get on their agenda and talk about it.

Report of Chairperson:

1. Hilma reached out and asked the BOH to attend a select board meeting to discuss the updated job description for the town we'll coordinate that once I hear back from Hilma.

Clerk's Report:

Report Attached.

1. Susan asked about item #3 if we know what the issues were regarding the emails and the well permit and septic installer license.
2. Randy reported that the Well permit was for 26 State Farm Rd. Installers permit for Larry Leclair LML construction out of Leverett he's installing a system Sumner Stanton Rd. I was there yesterday afternoon for the final inspection.

New Business:

1. Sheila asked how the budget has been used and stated it would be useful to know what things we spend money on, Just getting the balance doesn't tell me much. Can the report expound what our budget is used? Gene will follow up with the Clerk.

Ongoing Business:

1. COVID 19 update (Gruen/Litchfield):
Susan received the COVID test kits and distributed to Claire Rabbitt, Also working with Doug Telling and the Board of Health person from Charlemont and we agreed that we would give some COVID test kits to Hawlemont school especially with Thanksgiving coming around and number of kids in school having COVID. At this point COVID test kits are good for the next 6-7 months. Everybody has enough masks, and the library and council of aging are well stocked. We did a FRCOG/EDS clinic at Hawlemont on the 18th of October it was flu and COVID together.
2. CHPS (Gruen/Litchfield):
Most of the discussion was regarding the nurses, the clinics, the vaccine program, and the walk in wellness clinic they had. Meg Ryan discussed dementia awareness and training and she offered again to come up to Heath and I contacted Lyra and suggested she be in contact with Meg Ryan that she was willing and ready to come to any council of aging meeting and it was not only on dementia but the caregivers and how difficult it is to be a caretaker for people with dementia and chronic illness.
3. Heath Herald (Litchfield):
Spring Season issue deadline January 5. We will submit an article for mosquito/tick prevention.
4. PVMCD (Gruen):
Spoke with John Briggs and it is expensive for them to collect tires but he hasn't given up hope. The concerns are that the mosquito population will increase this spring and summer and the multitude of tires around town, specifically old farms. In the past, they did a tire collection but they're \$5 a piece and if there are 100 tires on a farm this may be cost prohibitive for folks. FRCOG roundtable, Susan Gruen stated it was just an e-mail report and at the next meeting Amy Petrosky from Mass DPH will be joining and she will be discussing credential requirements.
5. MAPHCO (Gruen):
Susan was unable to attend the last meeting. Randy reported that it was the first meeting with RSI which is the group that is taking the planning work for FRCOG.
6. Training to do Reverse 911 calls (Litchfield):
Tim Lively had hosted an emergency preparedness meeting that was very well attended, and it was briefly discussed that be trained on Revers 911. Select Board needs to make the decision.
7. Collaboration with BOS, Planning Board regarding management of bylaws on mobile units (all):
This item has not been followed-up on.

Other business:

1. None

Next meeting: December 13, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.