

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 4, 2024**

Board Members Present: Sheila Litchfield, Susan Gruen, Gene Garland -Chair  
Others: Cindie Garland – Boards Clerk

0902 Meeting Called to Order by Gene Garland

**REVIEW AGENDA/ADD ITEMS**

- Gene requested to add roles and responsibilities to the agenda if Tucker joins the meeting.
- Susan requested to discuss the National Grid meeting with the Town that was held 8/27/24.
- Sheila requested to add Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) WebEOC drill update.

**REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES**

- July 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Susan moved to accept the minutes with corrections as written. Gene seconded the motion. Ayes: Susan, Sheila, and Gene.

**REGIONAL HEALTH AGENT UPDATE**

(Randy or Kurt did not phone in during the meeting, However, Randy did send an email with updates):

- Kurt and Jasmine inspected the food service locations at the Heath Fair. Randy inspected the Fireman's Chicken BBQ. He stated there were no issues.
- Jenny Hamilton, President of the Mohawk Estates Homeowners Assoc., contacted Randy about an emergency short-term loss of one restroom due to a plumbing issue resulted in a need to close both bathrooms for the camping season. Two porta-potties have been brought in for toileting. There will be no available showers for the remainder of the 2024 Mohawk Estates camping season. New piping may need to be installed within the concrete floor. Jenny will submit a Porta-potty permit application to the Heath BOH for review.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**NURSE UPDATE**

- Nurses report: In July one person requested an exam for lice which was negative. Another person became weak, hypotensive, and nauseated and required transport to the hospital by ambulance. The home visit individuals have gone to nursing home facilities. Claire distributed information sheets about precautions for hot weather and mosquitoes.
- Claire stated the flu vaccine was delivered.
- Susan stated there are several reported cases of COVID-19 in Heath.
- The latest CPHS report on diseases for Franklin County:
  - COVID-19 6 official cases

- Tick borne illness: 6 Lyme, 1 babesiosis, 1 Borrelia Miyamotoi, 1 campylobacteriosis, 1 Hepatitis A, 1 Hepatitis B.
- Gene will reach out to Maureen O'Reilly about the delivery of the Narcan boxes. There was discussion about installing one at Sawyer Hall and at JRMC.

**BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATE**

- Cindie reviewed the BOH monthly budget (see below).

**FY25 MONTHLY BUDGET:**

<b>BOH ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSED</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
BOH Expenses	1,500.00		758.50	905.50
Personnel Expenses	8,685.00		2,785.92	5,899.08
Stipends	1,375.00		875.00	500.00
<b>CARRYOVER ACCOUNTS</b>				
BOH Revolving Fund	11,524.12	2,567.20		14,091.32
Septic Grant	43,832.98	29.20		43,862.18

**COVID UPDATES/TEST KITS/UPCOMING CLINIC**

- Sheila received the COVID test kits and placed them in the BOH office. Board members and Claire will disperse them to the residents as needed. The test kits expire November 23, 2024.
- The state of Massachusetts opened requests for COVID test kits.
- FRCOG released the dates and locations of the 2024 Fall Franklin County Vaccine Clinics. October 22, 2024 @ 3:30-7 p.m. Hawlemont Elementary (Charlemont). Cindie will add the information on the Town of Heath website, BOH Facebook page, and at the information boards in Sawyer Hall and JRMC.
- Maureen O'Reilly has said that they do want EDS assistance. The emergency dispensing sites are planned to be operated by the Boards of Health in the towns that support EDS, Heath, Hawley, Rowe, Charlemont, and Monroe. Maureen sent the invitations and the information out to Boards of Health and Emergency Management Directors in the five towns. Sheila sent the Save the Date notice and reserved the school building for the clinic. Sheila stated it is a great way to connect with other Board of Health members in the network and keep EDS effective and strong. Sheila added the members will not be providing vaccines or vaccine administration but everything else. If the vaccine provider doesn't need much of our help, then we will come up with our own drill scenario. So, it will be an official EDS drill.

## ARBOVIRUS UPDATE

- Susan stated there was a death in New Hampshire of a 41-year-old male.

## HEATH FAIR/EEE/WEST NILE VIRUS CONCERNS

- Bug X wipes were distributed during the Heath Fair.
- Susan stated she received an alert notice that there was a case in New Hampshire, 40-year-old male, who tested positive for EEE and West Nile Virus. He is on life support.
- Vermont is cancelling their outdoor Oktoberfest. They are considering doing away with evening school practices. Susan stated she was not sure if there were positive cases in Vermont.
- The next PVMCD meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup> cancelled and October and Susan will call in.
- Mosquitoes in Greenfield, Massachusetts have tested positive for the West Nile virus (WNV).

## PORTA-POTTY INQUIRY

- Sheila discussed a complaint she received about a porta-potty that was installed at the end of the complainant's driveway on Dell Road. She did not request the porta-potty and is concerned the folks who are cleaning up the property adjacent to hers may have someone staying there to do this work. The porta potty is right next to her driveway and the stream. Sheila reached out to Randy about the complaint. Randy responded to the inquiry that he was not aware of the complaint.

## NATIONAL GRID BRIEF TO THE TOWN OF HEATH SELECTBOARD

- Susan stated she was concern about the proposed vegetation management that National Grid discussed. She is concerned if they would be spraying chemicals. Gene will research.
- There was discussion about a BOH member attending the National Grid Pole hearing.

## MDPH WEBEOC DRILL

- MDPH -Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management WebEOC drill. Sheila stated the purpose of the drill was to update the Board of Health contact list. She was able to provide the board members information, but she didn't have Tuckers contact information. Gene is listed as the primary contact and Susan the secondary.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

### CPHS OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Sheila attended the July meeting. Maureen O'Reilly had a Narcan box with her and shared how to use the box with the group. Gene will attend the September meeting and Susan will attend October.

### BOH ACTION REPORT

- Gene reviewed the action report.
- The board agreed to meet with the Emergency Management Director to talk about reverse 911 systems for Heath.

## HEATH HERALD ARTICLES

- Vaccine clinics dates and times listed in the calendar.

Next Meeting Oct 16, 2024, 0900 @JPMC BOH office.

Gene motioned to adjourn at 10:15; Sheila seconded the motion. Ayes: Sheila, Susan, and Gene  
Meeting Adjourned 10:15.