

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
Sept 17, 2025**

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

0901 Meeting Called to Order by Gene Garland

**REVIEW AGENDA/ADD ITEMS**

- The board reviewed the agenda. No items added.

**REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES**

- July 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes: Susan moved to accept the minutes with minor edits. Sheila seconded the motion. Ayes: Susan, Sheila, Tucker and Gene. Approved the minutes unanimously.

**REGIONAL HEALTH AGENT UPDATE**

- Randy Crochier was unable to attend due to scheduled conferences.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NURSE UPDATE (Claire Rabbitt, RN)**

- Summary for Aug 2025: Total patients seen: 6; Home visits: 5. Office procedures: 2 INR tests and blood pressure checks.
- Claire attended a vaccine reimbursement webinar online.
- Flu Vaccine delivery expected Sept 10, 2025, to post office (not Jacobs Road as usual) from Sanofi Pasteur
- Dr. Warner signed off on flu vaccine but is retiring by January.
- Claire will establish a flu clinic once vaccine is received.
- Homebound residents contacted, and list provided to Lisa White.
- Updated emergency preparedness list with generator information for Tim meeting.

**COVID and Flu Vaccine Update**

- The COVID vaccine information was publicized by FRCOG/CPHS.
- Vaccines are available for homebound individuals. Susan had contacted Lyra about helping seniors register online.
- Susan stated that many residents have either received their vaccine or booked appointments at Big Y, Walgreens, or Baker's Pharmacy.
- Lisa White is holding a COVID and flu vaccination clinic on October 21 at the Good Neighbors Food Distribution **site**. Many residents signed up at the recent event.
- COVID vaccines for younger age groups are still awaiting approval. Some pharmacies have been flexible about vaccinating younger children with conditions such as asthma.

- Current data show Washington, California, Texas, and Connecticut have the highest numbers of new COVID cases.
- Susan will be away until September 29 but will remain in contact online.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **SHOE-SPRAYING EVENT RESULTS**

- Successfully completed with Tucker and Jason's assistance.
- 43 people participated with 43 pairs of shoes sprayed.
- Total of 88 shoes sprayed this summer.

### **HEATH FAIR**

- Bug wipes and informational posters distributed at Heath Fair.

### **BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATE**

- Cindie stated the Selectboard is in the process of updating Town Policies. Hilma asked the BOH to update the no bare feet and no smoking in the municipal buildings.
- Bare Feet Policy: There is no documented BOH order found despite existing signage. Research shows no Massachusetts law restricting bare feet in municipal buildings. The board determined no health hazard exists; policy creation not warranted by BOH.
- No Smoking Policy: The Massachusetts workplace smoking law already covers public buildings. Board recommends adhering to existing state law (MGL Chapter 270, Section 22) rather than creating separate policy. Suggested posting no smoking signs at town buildings. Cindie will post the signs.

### **COMPLAINTS**

- Resident on Number Nine Road reported neighbor's dog barking excessively.
- Complaint forwarded to Animal Control Officer for resolution.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

### **CPHS (COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES) UPDATE**

- Susan Gruen stated next meeting is Sept 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT (PVMCD) UPDATE**

- Meg Ryan sent a notice reporting positive mosquito pools for West Nile virus in Northfield, Shelburne, Rowe, and Colrain.
- Colrain is not part of the PVMCD, and local officials (John Briggs, Dr. Love, Greg Lewis) had not received that information. They are concerned about possible misinformation and emphasized the need for accurate public communication.
- Susan contacted Meg and Randy for clarification but has not yet received a response.
- PVMCD reported that there are 17 positive mosquito pools within the district, including in Northfield and Leyden.

- The mosquito population typically drops by late September but may persist through October this year.
- Staffing is limited since summer workers have returned to school, leaving John Briggs managing trapping alone.
- Dr. Love noted that mosquitoes appear to be living longer despite dry conditions.
- The district has sufficient funding for current member towns and added testing due to positive pools. There is concern about accepting new towns without additional funding, as current resources may not cover next year's operations. This issue will be discussed at the October meeting, which Susan plans to attend.

#### MOHAWK AREA PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION (MAPHCO)

- Gene stated Contract with RSI (Randy Cardenale) expired and required rebidding. Response Systems Inc. (RSI) did not reapply for renewal.
- Ongoing concerns about coordination between emergency response and public health functions.
- Limited feedback and inclusivity from current contractor services.
- Next meeting Oct 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (REPC)

- Sheila stated there is no update.

#### BOH ACTION ITEMS

- Follow up on BOH stipend review and Sawyer Hall ramp repairs.

#### HEATH HERALD ARTICLES

- The August–September issue of the Heath Herald included the lithium battery safety article, which ran longer than one column.
- The October–November issue (deadline September 5) was missed, as no new topic was ready.
- The next issue is December–January, with a November 5 deadline. There is time to select a new subject for that edition.
- Previously, articles from FRCOG (Maureen) provided short drafts or templates that could be expanded upon, but that service is no longer available.
- New article ideas will need to be developed independently. Members are encouraged to suggest topics before the November 5 deadline.

Next Meeting: Oct 8, 2025 @ 0900 via Zoom.

Gene made a motion to adjourn at 9:50; Sheila seconded the motion. Ayes: Sheila, Susan, Tucker and Gene. Meeting Adjourned at 9:50.