

**MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025 – 5:00 PM**  
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Melanie Ames-Zamojski, Michael Nelson and Rachel Stoler (joined via Zoom at 5:31 pm)

**Staff:** Ryan Paxton, Health Director for Montague and Geneva Bickford, Board of Health Clerk

**Other:** Mackenzie Creedon, Susan Pelis and Jonathan Morin

**Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:02 PM**

**\*ROLL CALL VOTES TAKEN DUE TO RACHEL STOLER ATTENDING VIA ZOOM\***

**\*Melanie Ames-Zamojski, Board Chair, elected to move agenda item “Discussion: Temporary Housing at Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club” to the last agenda item to allow for more time for resident to join meeting if they choose to.**

**Minutes:**

December 11, 2024, Minutes

- The BOH Members reviewed and approved the December 11, 2024, minutes.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the December 11th Minutes as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

*Nelson – aye and Ames-Zamojski– aye*

**Director’s Report:**

- Ryan Paxton, Health Director, presented the December 2024 Director’s Report.
  - 9 M St is actively in Housing Court;
  - 37 E Main St is in the process of getting a lead inspector in to determine if there is lead present.
  - Paxton met with Mass Rivers Alliance to discuss the possibility of Western MA Public Health Association (“WMPHA”) participation in the upcoming Water Equity Summit Steering Committee, and it does not look like we will be joining.
  - 5 Purple Air Sensors for the Healthy Air Network and Purple Air Network have been placed on various town buildings. People can view the data by visiting purpleair.com.
  - The BOH takes a moment to acknowledge the great work Paxton is doing.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Director’s Report. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

*Nelson – aye and Ames-Zamojski– aye*

**Nurse Report:**

- Ryan Paxton, Health Director, presented the Nurse’s Report.
  - Paxton discussed the dates on the Public Health Nurse’s reports and the correction will be made in the future so that she is presenting on the previous month.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Nurse’s Report. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

*Nelson – aye and Ames-Zamojski– aye*

**Animal/Barn Inspector Report:**

- Ryan Paxton, Health Director, presented the December 2024 Animal/Barn Inspector Report.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Animal/Barn Inspector's Report. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

*Nelson – aye, Zamojski – Aye and Stoler – aye*

**Presentation: Opioid Settlement Funds Project Proposal for Piti Theatre Company:**

- Board of Health to hear a project proposal from the Piti Theatre Company presented by Jonathan Mirin.
  - Jonathan Mirin (“Mirin”) and Susan Pelis (“Pelis”) were present for the BOH meeting and presented a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the work done by Morin and the Piti Theatre Company. (The PowerPoint presentation is available by request from the BOH Office).
  - The BOH discusses with Paxton the process regarding the spending of the funds received and who is responsible for deciding where the funds are spent. Paxton will confirm.
  - Ames-Zamojski asks Morin to provide the BOH with a budget for one year and this matter will be BOH will discuss more at their next meeting.

**Discussion Late Fee Waiver Requests:**

- Board of Health to hear request for late fee dismissal from Thorntail Tattoo and Art Collective regarding their body art practitioner and establishment license.
  - Mackenzie Creedon is present and asks the BOH for a waiver on the late fee. Creedon was two days late submitting her renewal paperwork. In the past Creedon has not been charged a late fee and did not know one was applicable. Ames-Zamojski reminds Creedon that the late fee requirement is posted on the website and in the future expects that it will be paid, or the renewal paperwork will be turned in on time.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to waive the late fee's this one time to Thorntail Tattoo and Art Collective for the body art practitioner and establishment license. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

*Nelson – aye, Ames-Zamojski – Aye and Stoler – aye*

**Discussion: Planning for Absence(s) of Health Director and Responding to Urgent Matters:**

- Discuss general protocols for responding to urgent public health matters during times when the Director of Public Health is not available.
  - The BOH discussed urgent matters and how to deal with them when Paxton is out of town. An issue arose while Paxton was last on vacation and the Administrative Assistant was unsure how to handle as it had to do with asbestos in the schools. In the future Ames-Zamojski would like to be contacted before reaching out to the Town Administrator and she will determine what the next step will be.

**Discussion: Temporary Housing at Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club:**

- Discuss enforcement of 105 CMR 410.000 regarding the temporary housing that was authorized at 210 Rear Turners Falls Rd until January 21, 2025.
  - Ames-Zamojski and Paxton have reached out to various entities to see if they would be able to provide assistance to Joe Warsawski and his wife. Franklin Housing Authority referred them to Way Finders. The Elliott House does not classify them as homeless and has met with Warsawski on 12/17/24 and provided him with more possible contacts that may be able to help. At this point, the board feels it is best to do nothing for now as it is winter and will discuss this matter again at their March meeting.



**Topics Unanticipated:**

- **Tobacco Regulation Signing:** Ames-Zamojski and Nelson signed the Tobacco Regulation passed at the December 11, 2024, BOH Meeting. Stoler will come in person to sign the regulations as she attended the meeting via Zoom.
- The BOH had a brief discussion regarding the CDC now being silent due to the President's Order and the pausing of federal funding.

**Meeting adjourned: 6:11 PM**

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

*Stoler – aye, Nelson – aye and Zamojski – aye*

Approved by: *Rachel Stoler*

Date: *2/26/25*

**Documents:**

December Minutes;

Director's Report;

Nurse's Report;

Animal and Barn Inspector Report;

Piti Theatre Company Power Point Presentation (Video is available upon request unable to print as it is a video);

Millers Fall's Rod & Gun Club Correction Order (10-2-24);

Millers Fall's Rod & Gun Club Letter regarding BOH Meeting discussion on 10-23-24;

Millers Fall's Rod & Gun Club letter authorization letter (10-28-24); and

Montague BOH Anonymous Complaint form regarding Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club.