

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – 5:00 PM
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Melanie Ames-Zamojski, Rachel Stoler and Michael Nelson

Staff: Ryan Paxton - Health Director for Montague, Geneva Bickford – Board of Health Clerk

Other: Jeff Singleton (in person), Erin-Leigh Hoffman (in person), Josh Pruett (zoom), Peter Brennan (zoom)

Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:00 PM

Discussion: Board of Health Public Hearing: Adoption of Updated Montague Board of Health Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products – Votes may be taken.

- Members of the public will be allowed to discuss the proposed update to the Montague Board of Health Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products.
- The public hearing continued. Michael Nelson asks if there are any statutory regulations on how long before changes can be implemented. The Health Director does not know of any minimum requirements and suggests 30-60 days to allow retailers to return any existing inventory. Jeff Singleton asks if town counsel was consulted before any of these changes were made? Paxton explains the board checked with the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, which has multiple attorneys on staff and these changes are changes that were made in their model regulation as well as changes that have been passed in other communities. Peter Brennan speaks in opposition to the restriction as he feels the ban would not serve any public health service. Erin Leigh-Hoffman asks if there are any 21+ stores in Montague? There are not. The board votes to pass the regulation with an effective date of March 1, 2025. Paxton will have a clean version for the BOH to sign at the next meeting.

Rachel Stoler moves to close the public hearing, Michael Nelson seconds, motion carries.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** that the Board of Health move forward with the regulation of the Montague Board of Health restricting the sale of tobacco products as has been proposed and shared with a regulation effective date of March 1, 2025. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Minutes – Votes may be taken:

October 23, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes

- The BOH Members reviewed the minutes of October 23, 2024, Hearing/Meeting.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the October 23rd Minutes. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

October 30, 2024, Hearing/Meeting

- The BOH Members reviewed the minutes of October 30, 2024, Special Meeting. The spelling of Ilana Gerjuoy's name was corrected, and minutes were approved as amended.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the October 30th Minutes as amended. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Director's Report – votes may be taken:

- Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the October Director's Report.

- Conducted inspections at 11 Millers Falls Rd, 108 Third St, 96 Third St, 118 Avenue A, 10-12 H St, 16 Chestnut St, 79 Fifth St, 9 M St, 15 Unity St, 155 Avenue A, 75 Hillside Rd, 29 Avenue A, 69 Second St.
 - Paxton indicates there was a large increase in housing complaints in October.
- Condemned and issued order to vacate at 75 Hillside Rd and 79 Fifth St.
 - 75 Hillside Rd is a vacant home that has not utility services and 79 Fifth St had a fire and is uninhabitable.
- Conducted 11 inspections related to trash or other nuisances at 5 separate addresses; outcomes include: resolving several complaints, 3 citations, 1 order to correct and several re-inspections.
- Conducted 10 Bi-annual food inspections at Walgreens, Family Dollar, Avenue A Market, Brick & Feather Brewery, Country Creemee, Newt Gilbault League, Subway, Nouria Energy, FCTS cafeteria, and the apprentice kitchen at FCTS.
- Conducted re-inspections of Sheffield Elementary and Nouria Energy.
- Inspected temporary food license vendors at 'Boolevard Bash' hosted by Ja'Duke.
- Completed system inspections at 2 Fosters Rd & 26 Gunn Rd.
- Issued Disposal System Construction permits at 392 Old Greenfield Rd.
- Witnessed percolation testing and soil evaluation at 83 Old Stage Rd, 91 Taylor Hill Rd, and #47-0-25, Taylor Hill Rd.
- Issued fine to CT River Liquors for sale to a minor during FDA compliance check.
 - Montague was required to issue a fine as the original fine was issued by the FDA.
- Completed annual inspection of Thorntail Tattoo and Art Collective.
- Attended monthly MAPCHO steering committee meeting.
- Attended monthly WMPHA meeting.
- Attended and hosted WMPHA's annual Totally Title 5 Conference.
- Attended Municipal Vulnerabilities Planning 2.0 meeting.
- Attended Community Health Improvement Plan quarterly updates meeting at FRCOG.
- Attended monthly Franklin County Abandoned Property group meeting.
- Issued emergency waiver for use of pesticides at Hillcrest Elementary for treatment of stinging insect infestation located in classroom.

Michael Nelson Motioned to accept the October Director's Report. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. Motion passes.

Director's Report – votes may be taken:

- Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the November 2024 Director's Report.
- Conducted inspections at 15 Unity St, 10 High St, 91 Fourth St, and 55 Park St.
- Conducted outreach with an unhoused person on Avenue A.
- Lifted condemnation at 55 Park St.
- Conducted 1 inspection related to trash at 32 high Street and issued an order to correct.
- Conducted 6 Bi-annual food inspections at TeaTimes(tx), Mohawk Falafel, Turners Falls Rod & Gun, Head Start Central, Head Start G St, and Montague Retreat Center.
- Conducted re-inspections of Mohawk Falafel and Nouria Energy.
- Issued Disposal System Construction permit at 83 Old Stage Rd.
- Witnessed percolation testing and soil evaluation at #25-0-14 (Millers Falls Rd), 27 West St, 55 Swamp Rd, and #48-0-103 (Taylor Heights).
- Conducted site visit of Montague Center Water District property and subsequently issued a 10-day emergency beaver permit and additional 10-day emergency permit.
- Issued a well construction permit at 14 Gunn Rd.

- The BOH discussed well failures in the area of Gunn Road. 285 Old Greenfield Road continues to have water quality issues and has not received a water supply certificate.
- Attended monthly MAPCHO steering committee meeting and a separate principles of operations subcommittee meeting.
 - The BOH and Paxton discussed the full coalition meeting. The meeting was called due to Williamsburg wanting to exit MAPCHO which required a full coalition vote.
- Attended Municipal Vulnerabilities Planning 2.0 Meeting.
- Installed outdoor air quality sensors at Town Hall, Clean Water Facility, and the DPW.
- Attended monthly Franklin County Abandoned Property group Meeting.
- Attended annual Massachusetts Health Officer's Association's 2024 Annual Conference.
- Attended hearing in Western District Housing Court regarding 10 Unity Street.
 - Upcoming receivership hearing scheduled for January.
- Complete an informal walkthrough with potential buyer of Shady Glenn Diner.
- Completed WebEOC training.
- Attended opening ceremony at Community Health Center of Franklin County's new health center in Turners Falls.
- Attended monthly Valley Health Regional Collaborative steering committee meeting.
 - The Valley Health Regional Collaborative has not been able to staff the shared inspector position.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the November Director's Report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Nurse Report – Votes may be taken:

- Director, Ryan Paxton, presented October and November Nurses Report.
- Vaccine Clinic – Upcoming Covid Clinic scheduled for 12/17/24.
 - A limited number of \$75 gift cards will be given to those attending the clinic.
- Health Screenings/Consults/Clinics/Community Outreach – Community health fair & Weekly office hours.
- Meetings - Weekly meeting with Jack Sullivan, epidemiologist for Valley Health Collaboration, OLAR. PHN and School Nurse Meeting.
- Educational Outreach – Walking PNA update to surrounding schools.
- MAVEN Report – Hep C, 5; Covid, 1 (reported); Norovirus, 1; Salmonellosis, 1; Lyme, 2; Strep PNA, 1; Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (“HGA”), 1.
 - Acronyms will be spelled out in the future.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the October and November 2024 Nurse's Report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Animal/Barn Inspector Report – Votes may be taken:

- Health Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the October 2024 and November 2024 Animal Inspector Report.
- 1 dog quarantine in October and there were no dog quarantines and in November.
- No cat quarantines in October and 1 cat quarantine in November.
- 10 Barn inspections were done in October and 30 were done in November 11 Barn Inspections.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Animal/Barn Inspector's Reports for October and November. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Presentation: Opioid Settlement Funds Project Proposal for Piti Theatre Company – Votes may be taken:

- Board of Health to hear project proposal from the Piti Theatre Company presented by Joe Morin
 - No discussion had the John Morin will attend another meeting at a later date.

Approval of 2025 BOH Fee Schedule – Votes may be taken.

- Review and consider for approval proposed 2025 BOH Fee Schedule.
 - Letter of Fitness now reads Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program Inspection, a \$175 Site Assessment for Home Burials fee was added, removed fee for first septic revision & returned plans, removed \$100 late fee for trash haulers as there is already a \$110 late fee, and the landfill permit fee was removed as new landfills cannot be permitted.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to approve the fee schedule for 2025 as has been recommended. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Approval of 2025 BOH Meeting Schedule – Votes may be taken.

- The Board is to review and consider for approval the proposed meeting schedule for 2025.
 - Future BOH meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the 2025 meeting calendar for the fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:00 pm at the town hall meeting room with the option to zoom when necessary. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Discussion: Unlicensed Trash Hauling in Montague – Votes may be taken:

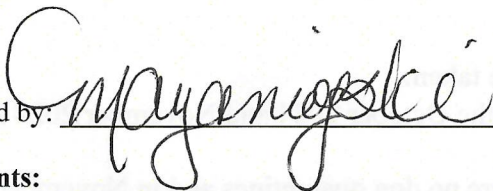
- Continue discussion of possible code enforcement actions related to Allen's Affordable Roll-Off Dumpsters operating as an unlicensed trash hauler in the Town of Montague.
 - A letter has been mailed to Allen's Affordable Roll Off. Paxton has not received a response to the letter mailed on October 31, 2024. The board agrees the next step will be to issue a fine if they are seen in Montague without proper permitting.

Meeting adjourned: 5:48 PM

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

Vote taken by roll call: Ames-Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Approved by: _____



Date: _____

1/22/25

Documents:

Regulation of the Montague Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products;
New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association October 28, 2024 Ltr;
R Street October 30, 2024 Ltr;
September 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes;
Director's Report;
Montague Public Health Nurse Report; and
Animal Inspector Report.