

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025 – 5:00 PM
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Melanie Ames-Zamojski, Chair (in person), Michael Nelson (Zoom) and Rachel Stoler (in person)

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

Other:

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

Minutes:

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the March 26, 2025 and April 9, 2025, minutes.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the March 26, 2025 Minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the April 9, 2025 minutes.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the April 9, 2025 Minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – abstain, Nelson - aye and Ames-Zamojski– aye

Director’s Report:

- Ryan Paxton (“Paxton”), Health Director, presented the March 2025 Director’s Report.
 - 286 Montague City Rd has stalled, and Paxton is not sure it will go any further.
 - 9 M St has hoarding issues and is currently in housing court.
 - 3 tobacco fines have been issued for Scotty’s on the Hill, Nouria Energy and Cumberland Farms that have not been paid. The appeal deadline has passed. Tobacco Permits will be renewed by July 1, 2025 and they will not be able to renew their tobacco permits without paying the fine. Paxton will mail demand letters.
 - BOH Chair, Ames-Zamojski asks if there is any update on the housing situation at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Paxton has no updates.

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

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

Nurse Report:

- Ryan Paxton, Health Director, presented the March 2025 Nurse’s Report.
 - The Board and Paxton discuss ticks and possible tabling events the nurse may hold. There is no bug spray leftover from last year but the tick removal tools are still available at the BOH office.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Nurse’s Report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- Ryan Paxton, Health Director, presented the March 2025 Animal/Barn Inspector Report.
 - Kathy Burek, Animal/Barn Inspector has signed the nomination papers required for her Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (“MDAR”) appointment.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Animal/Barn Inspector’s Report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

Discussion: Opioid Settlement Funds – Votes may be taken:

- Board to continue discussion regarding planning and process for spending opioid settlement funds.
- Director to provide update regarding summer local health internship program participation.
 - Paxton advises the board we have been given an Intern who is a UMass, Doctoral Student, that will be starting at the end of May and will be focusing mainly on the Opioid Settlement Funds project and will be working remotely.

Discussion: Farmers Market Fee Waiver – Votes may be taken:

- Board to consider request to waive fees for the 2025 Farmers Market.
 - The Board and Paxton discussed, and the Board agreed to waiving fees for all future farmer’s markets and to amend the fee schedule to indicate no fee charged for farmer’s market vendors.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to waive fees for the 2025 Farmer’s Market. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to amend the fee schedule to include the Farmer’s Market License Fee at no cost. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

Unanticipated Discussion: 62 E Chestnut Hill Rd:

- Work has not been completed but a good faith effort has been made. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors have been installed since the hearing held on April 9, 2025.
- The property owner states they are having issues getting contractors into the property to do repairs as they are not able to coordinate with the occupant.
- Paxton received communication from the property owner stating she offered monetary compensation for the occupant to move out of the property and the property owners wish to have the property condemned.
- The board will have another hearing on May 1, 2025. Paxton will send out hearing notices to the property owner and the occupant.

Meeting adjourned: 5:35 PM

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

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

Approved by: Rachel Steiner

Date: 5/28/25

Documents:

March 26, 2025 Minutes;

April 9, 2025 Minutes;

Director's Report;

Nurse's Report;

Animal and Barn Inspector Report;