

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING & HEARING

Wednesday, March 25th, 2026 – 5:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

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

Staff: Geneva Bickford, Board of Health Clerk

Other: Julie Page (in person), Erin Leigh-Hoffman (Zoom)

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

Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:09 PM

Hearing: 34 Montague Ave – Votes may be taken.

- Board to follow up on 34 Montague Ave and to discuss further enforcement if necessary.
 - The owner of the property in the past had said they would have water restored and the water has not been restored as of today. The Board voted unanimously to condemn 34 Montague Ave, and Gough will post the condemnation notice on the property and send notice to the property owner. When water is restored in order for Gough to lift the condemnation, she will do a full inspection of the property before lifting.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to condemn 34 Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

Melanie Ames-Zamojski closed the Hearing at 5:07 PM

Minutes:

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the January 28, 2026 minutes.

*Micheal Nelson **Motioned** to accept the November 19, 2025 Minutes. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Director’s Report:

- Board to Review the Director’s January 2026 and February 2026 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the January 2026 and February 2026 Director’s Report as written.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the January 2026 and February 2026 Director’s Report. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

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

Nurse Report:

- Board to Review the Nurse’s January 2026 and February 2026 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the January 2026 and February 2026 Nurse’s Report as written.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the January 2026 and February 2026 Nurse’s Report. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

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

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- Board to Review the Animal/Barn Inspector's January 2026 and February 2026 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the January 2026 and February 2026 Animal/Barn Inspector's Report as written.

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

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

Discussion: Continued discussion on Nicotine Free Generation Policy:

- Board to continue discussion on Nicotine Free Generation presentation from January meeting.
 - The board continued discussion on the Nicotine Free Generation presentation. Zamojski is not in favor of completely banning a legal substance and feels that tobacco is a legal substance and there are regulations in place for purchase and sale and if enforced properly they work. Zamojski's opinion is that tobacco is a legal substance and if someone wants to make bad decisions then they are allowed to make that decision. Nelson is also not in favor of this ban and does not agree with banning any legal substance. Stoler would like to hear more from the public and feels this ban may be something positive as it will eventually eliminate the sale of tobacco in the town of Montague. The board decided if the public would like to move this forward, they will do so but if not, there will be no further discussion on this matter at this time.

Signatures:

- Pioneer Valley Tobacco Coalition participating municipality agreement.
- Director time sheets.
 - Zamojski signed the Pioneer Valley Tobacco Coalition Agreement as well as the Director's time sheets.

Unanticipated Discussion:

- 89 Mormon Hollow Rd:
 - Attorney Julie Page ("Page") was present. Page represents the property owner of 89 Mormon Hollow Rd. The agenda for this meeting was amended to remove 89 Mormon Hollow Rd from discussion due the occupant not receiving notice in time. Zamojski did allow public comment on this matter and Page indicated that the property owner and occupant are in court due to legal issues surrounding the purchase of the property and the occupant not vacating. Gough got involved in this matter when she received a phone call from the property owner advising her that the occupants had a washer and dryer delivered to the camper they are living on at the property. Gough contacted the occupants and they allowed her to come inspect the site which revealed that an illegal septic system of sorts was placed on the property without proper permitting. Gough informed the occupants they were not to use that system. The board discussed rescheduling the condemnation hearing for 89 Mormon Hollow Rd to Wednesday, April 2, 2026 at 5:00 pm via Zoom. Page will forward documents she will be presenting to the Board of Health by Monday.
- 453 Millers Falls Rd:
 - The board briefly discussed this matter just to confirm the matter is now closed. The occupant has moved out.
- 25-29 E Main St:
 - The board briefly discussed the fire that occurred on March 18, 2026. The property owner is looking to get all the apartment units back into livable conditions and is concerned with the tenants being displaced. There was brief discussion regarding the reopening of Whistle Stop Café but no one is sure when or if they will reopen.

- ADA Compliance:
 - Zamojski discussed briefly ADA compliance changes that will need to be in place as of April 2027. Gough will follow up with town administration to make sure they are aware of the upcoming compliance that will need to take place. Zamojski asked that this be discussed further at the next board of health meeting.
- Opioid Settlement Funds:
 - Gough presented the board with a brief update and shared with the board the Summer Camp Scholarships that will be provided to individuals directly impacted by this.

Meeting adjourned: 5:55 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 Stoler*

Date: *4/22/26*

Documents:

34 Montague Ave Notice of Condemnation Hearing;
 January 28, 2026 Minutes;
 January 2026 Director's Report;
 February 2026 Director's Report;
 January 2026 Nurse's Report;
 February 2026 Nurse's Report;
 January 2026 Animal/Barn Inspector Report;
 February 2026 Animal/Barn Inspector Report;
 Pioneer Valley Tobacco Coalition Participating Municipality Agreement;
 Health Director Time Sheets; and
 Frankin Regional Council of Governments Summer Camp Scholarship Packet.