

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING & HEARING

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026 – 5:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

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

Staff: Ashley Gough, Health Director and Geneva Bickford, Board of Health Clerk

Other:

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

***Michael Nelson joined the meeting @ 5:06 PM via Zoom**

Minutes:

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the March 26, 2026 minutes.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the March 26, 2026 Minutes. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the April 2, 2026 Hearing Minutes.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the April 2, 2026 Hearing Minutes. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Director’s Report:

- Board to Review the Director’s March 2026 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the March 2026 Director’s Report as written.
 - 308 Montague City Rd – this is an ongoing matter and Gough continues to work with the occupant and the property owner regarding access issues.
 - 6 Kettlehole Ln – keys were dropped off to RDI as this was a USDA foreclosure. The property is vacant but does not appear to have code issues.
 - 89 Mormon Hollow Rd – Gough continues to receive communication from the occupant’s attorney as well as the property owner’s attorney regarding various matters that are legal issues. The property owner’s attorney requested Gough meet them at the property to show them how to properly board and secure. Gough discussed the issues with FRCOG and was advised to mail the proper documents on how to board and secure and if the property owner would like to meet in Gough’s office to discuss how to board up the property, they could do that.
 - 121 Turners Falls Rd – this property is currently owned by a bank and may be a good candidate for receivership. Gough has sent out Orders to Correct (“OTC”) to hopefully push the bank to clean up the property.
 - 7-9 Federal St – this property has bags of trash on the curb, it is a 2 family home that has occupants on one side that are tagging their trash properly and occupants on the other side are not tagging their trash properly. Fines and OTC’s have been mailed.

*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:

- Board to Review the Nurse's March 2026 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the March 2026 Nurse's Report as written.
 - The board had a short discussion on the advertisement of the Nurse's hours and suggested coming up with signage that would detail hours as well as what the nurse is able to do. Hours should be sent to the Senior Center and hours should also be posted on the BOH website.

*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:

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

*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: New ADA rule regarding Accessibility of Web Content:

- Director to present updates from Town administration regarding compliance steps.
 - Gough met with town administration and was advised that the Town has a vendor working on this project and there is nothing at this time that the BOH needs to do.

Discussion: Interdepartmental Property Code Enforcement Workgroup:

- Director to present updates on newly reconvened workgroup regarding housing cases that may be referred to the Neighborhood Renewal Program.
 - Gough met with department heads to reconvene the Property Code Enforcement Workgroup. Gough found this meeting to be very helpful as all departments were able to discuss various properties and various concerns with those properties. The group discussed 34 Montague Ave, 89 Mormon Hollow Rd, 121 Turners Falls Rd and 78 J St. Gough will continue to attend these meetings and bring any relevant information to the board.

Signature: Specimen for Rabies Testing Form:

- Agreement between Montague and Franklin County Sheriff's Office regarding specimen testing for confirmed rabies exposure.
 - Animal Control sent this agreement over to the BOH so they are able to collect and send out any bats for testing that they receive calls for when the BOH is not available to make that decision. The board authorized Ames-Zamojski to sign the agreement.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to authorize Melanie Ames-Zamojski to sign the Specimen for Rabies Testing Form. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

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

Meeting adjourned: 5:42 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: Samuel Stoler

Date: 5/27/26

Documents:

March 26, 2026 Minutes;
April 2, 2026 Hearing Minutes;
Director's March 2026 Report;
Nurse's March 2026 Report;
Animal/Barn Inspector's March 2026 Report;
Specimen for Rabies Testing Form.