

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024 – 5:30 PM
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Melanie Ames-Zamojski and Rachel Stoler

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

Other: Arielle (in-person), Megan Rhodes, FRCOG (remote)

Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:30 PM

Minutes:

April 17, 2024 Minutes

- The BOH Members reviewed the minutes of April 17, 2024.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the April 17th Minutes as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Director's Report:

- Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the April 2024 Director's Report.
- Conducted Inspections at 37 E Main St, 25 Fourth St, 17 Hillside Ave and 3 Edwards Ave.
- Filed two show cause hearing requests for housing court complaints at two separate addresses 89 Mormon Hollow Rd & 11 Meadow Rd.
 - 89 Mormon Hollow Rd went to court. The house has since been sold. The property is undergoing significant renovations, and the new owner is working on making it habitable again.
 - 11 Meadow Rd, there was an errant filing. The health director met with relatives hoping to gain control of the property and they also allege there is a relative living in a camper on the property. The health director will continue to follow up on and serve the correct person using constable service.
- Conducted outreach to 2 unhoused persons.
 - They had been living in a vehicle in the Patch for a week or two. At this point the vehicle has been moved back into the driveway where they were previously living. The health director has had no further contact.
- Continued to investigate noise odor complaint regarding Flower Power.
 - Jaduke made several complaints regarding the odor of marijuana. There is an odor at that property, but the health director feels it should be handled at the town level. There is no specific CMR or guidelines. The health director is not comfortable citing violations. There is a host community agreement that the SB oversees. The Town Administration is fully aware of all of this.
- Conducted 19 inspections related to trash at 9 separate addresses; outcomes include: resolving several complaints, 4 citations, 2 orders to correct and several reinspections.
- Conducted bi-annual inspection of Family Dollar.
- Conducted pre-operational inspections at New Guilbault League, Mohawk Falafel, and Avenue A Market.
- Completed reinspection of Cumberland Farms.
- Issued order to correct to 3 Taylor Heights.

- Witnessed a percolation test and soil evaluation at 390 Millers Falls Rd.
- Attended monthly Valley Health Regional Collaborative Steering Committee Meeting.
- Attended monthly MAPCHO steering committee meeting.
- Attended monthly Western Mass Public Health Association's Executive Meeting.
- Attended Community Sanitation Program webinar regarding updated minimum standards for recreational camps for children.
- Tested exterior paint of senior center for the presence of lead at the request of the Town Administration.
- Attended monthly FRCOG BOH Housing Roundtable.
 - 12 Federal Street has a new owner and the health director has requested it be removed from receivership.
 - 96 Third Street, the health director has reached out asking to accelerate the petition as the property still remains completely unsecure in the back. It may be worth pursuing receivership in housing court.
- Attended internal meetings regarding the former Montague landfill site following report of excess gas emittance.
 - This is a capped landfill, and the report shows an excess of gas emittance. Testing was done at Judd Wire and at the Animal Shelter. There were no issues indoors. TFFD has it on their radar and seem to be addressing it.
- Joined Baystate Community Benefits and Advisory Committee and attended monthly meeting.
- Attended kickoff event for the Community Benefits and Advisory Committee and attended monthly meeting.
- Attended kickoff event for the Community Health Improvement Plan Network (2024-2028).
- Applied for a Mass DEP grant to receive 5-10 air sensors that monitor PM 2.5 for installation in Montague.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Director's Report. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Nurse Report:

- Health Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the April 2024 Nurses Report.
- Continued with weekly office hours.
 - There was a potential rabies exposure due to a student bringing a dead bat from Montague to a Gill School. The bat was tested after being shared in a classroom setting. Animal Control in Gill responded and FRCOG sent the bat out for testing. Did not get a report from a vet.
- Continued weekly and monthly meetings.
- Working on mosquito education.
- MAVEN Report.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Nurse's Report. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- Health Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the April 2024 Animal Inspector Report.
- No quarantine for April 2024.
- 2 dog issues.
- 4 cat issues.
- No Barn Inspections.

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

Stoler – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Discussion: Interim Mosquito Control Plan

- The health director prepared an Interim Mosquito Management Plan while awaiting the results of the current proposed legislation S445 and H845.
- Plan consists of 8 bullet points.
 - Maintain & distribute educational materials related to mosquito-borne illness and its prevention. Posters and Pamphlets have been ordered in English and Spanish.
 - Directly offer educational resources and presentations to local community partners and relevant Town Departments with a focus on organizations that employ or interact with residents spending large amounts of time outdoors. Stoler would like to see some collaboration with Jon Dobosz. The field house would be a great place to hang posters with Jon's permission.
 - Participate in event "tabling" opportunities to directly interact with residents and provide educational outreach opportunities. Would like to see tabling events at different family events being held in town such as Movie Night in the Park, Lake Pleasant is celebrating their 150th birthday and will have events, the Farmer's Market, and the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.
 - Investigate all complaints or reports of standing water, insect harborage, excessive presence of mosquitos, or other environmental health conditions known to contribute to mosquito populations.
 - Coordinate with private property owners, Montague DPW, and other relevant parties to ensure code violations of 105 CMR 410 or other relevant regulations are corrected.
 - Utilize the "Code Red" reverse-911 system to notify residents of any arbovirus emergencies. The BOH will meet should the need for a code red arise.
 - Utilize data collected in neighboring communities by the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District to inform residents of the risk of potential exposure to arbovirus in or around Montague. Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District will share any relevant findings with Montague.
 - Provide free EPA approved mosquito repellent supplies to residents during outreach and at strategic locations.

Stoler – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Presentation: Montague Comprehensive Plan Updates

- Franklin Regional Council of Governments to provide updates on the Montague Comprehensive Plan.
 - Megan Rhodes discussed the draft comprehensive plan.

- The Draft should be posted on 5/23/24 or 5/24/24. A website has been created called montagueplans.org and that has a summary of all the outreach and the results from the surveys and information gathered at the workshops.
- There will be an open house on Tuesday, June 4 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Food will be provided, childcare will be provided, translation services will be provided and anyone needing transportation can contact Megan.
- There will be a virtual open house on Thursday, June 6 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
- A comment period will be held for several weeks after and hope to finalize it by the end of July.
- The comprehensive plan sets a vision of the town for the next 15 years.
- Recommendations will not be detailed; they will be general recommendations to allow flexibility for town planners and staff to pivot as needed.
- Postcards went out to all businesses and residents in town. Flyers are going up. Emails will soon go out and Press Releases will go out soon. We will also be visiting with all the town boards/committees to let them know about this to see if there are any pressing topics that have come up.
- It is suggested Rhodes could reach out to the Middle School and High School about having students attend and get some sort of credit for reading the plan and participating in the open house. Rhodes has spoken with the HS social studies class who is currently working on a unit on industrialization, and they are doing an exercise that will be incorporated into the plan. The health director has offered to provide contact information to Rhodes if she needs it.

Discussion: Fee for Tea Times Residential Kitchen Permit 2024

- Discuss request from Tea Times to pro-rate 2024 fee.
 - TeaTimes is a residential business and repackage tea and resell it. There was some confusion as a home occupancy permit was obtained last year but no food permit was issued.
 - As of now an inspection has been done and TeaTimes has since been permitted but is requesting the fee be prorated based on the fact she received the permit in the month of May.
 - Due to there being a mistake on behalf of the BOH the fee will be charged for 8 months as they were permitted in May.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the request to prorate the 2024 license fee for an eight-month permit. **Seconded** by Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Unanticipated Discussion:

Montague Resident, Ariel Elan, was in attendance. She noted concerns about the speed at which director, Ryan Paxton was speaking and briefly mentioned her involvement in the solar farm group. She declined to make any additional commentary related to the mosquito plan.

Meeting adjourned: 6:09 PM

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Approved by: Rachel Stoler

Date: 6/12/24

Documents:

April Minutes

Director's Report

Nurse's Report

Animal and Barn Inspector Report

2024 Interim Mosquito Management Plan

