

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING & HEARING

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – 5:00 PM
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Rachel Stoler and Michael Nelson

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

Other: David Leh (in person), Sheri Leh (in person), Carol Leh (in person) & George Goodridge (in person)

Michael Nelson opened the meeting at 5:01 PM

Minutes:

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

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the April 22, 2026 Minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Director’s Report:

- Board to Review the Director’s April 2026 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the April 2026 Director’s Report as written.
 - 118 Avenue A is a report of cat urine odor and refusal by tenants allowing the property management in to do their required inspections. Gough is working with 3 occupants to get the issue cleaned up.
 - 89 Third St #2 has more mold and a new water stain in the bathroom indicating that a new water leak has started or the old water leak was not fixed, the property owner is working to get the leak fixed.
 - 11 Lyman St a neighbor reported an issue with a bear that is “stalking” that dumpster at this property. Gough is unsure what the property owner is intending to do with it but does know there is no one occupying the property at this time. Gough believes it might be best for the property owner to remove the dumpster for now.
 - 10 Unity St is a property in receivership. Gough went back out to inspect due to a call about additional damage to the garage roof and racoons living in the property.
 - 121 Turners Falls Rd a complaint was received regarding trash and debris getting into neighbor’s yard. The owner is deceased and the mortgage company is foreclosing on the property. Gough attempted to reach out to the legal department of the mortgage company but was unsuccessful. An auction was scheduled for 5/27/26 and there were no bidders.
 - The Valley Health Collaborative is going to help with food inspections.

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

Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Nurse Report:

- Board to Review the Nurse’s April 2026 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the March 2026 Nurse’s Report as written.

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

Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- Board to Review the Animal/Barn Inspector's April 2026 Report.
 - The board unanimously voted to accept the April 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 and Nelson – aye

Discussion: 4 Burek Dr:

- Updates and discussion on 4 Burek Dr septic repair for new Director's clarification
 - Attorney Goodridge ("Goodridge") was present along with David Leh, Sheri Leh and Carol Leh. Gough discussed this matter with the Board and Goodridge to get a better understanding of the ongoing issues. Goodridge gave Gough a short rundown on the issues with the road and the vote required at Special Town Meeting ("STM"). Goodridge explained that an Approval Not Required ("ANR") was presented to the other side but it has not been agreed upon at this time. After the ANR is agreed upon it will need approval by the planning board and then recorded with the Registry of Deeds before the work can begin. Goodridge believes the hold up with the ANR is placement of the leach field. Goodridge will reach out to the Burek's attorney to see if he can move this along a little faster.

Discussion: Updated Well Regulations:

- Board will discuss latest draft of updated well regulations.
 - Gough presented the Board with copies of the current Well Regulations as well as a copy of Draft Well Regulations using the suggested in the States model. Gough pointed out changes that were made for the Board to review and discuss at a future meeting.

Discussion: Vaccine Freezer Donation:

- Discuss donation of freezer.
 - Gough was asked to move items around in the Town Hall Annex so that voting machines could fit in that room. In doing that consolidation Gough was asked about the vaccine freezer and if it was possible to donate since it has not been used. Gough will look into how the freezer was obtained/paid for and that will determine if the freezer can be "donated".

Unanticipated Discussions:

- Gunn Rd: There was a concern from a neighboring property where a new 2-unit, 5-bedroom house is being built on Gunn Rd. The concerned neighbor has experienced his well drying up in the past and is concerned that the addition of another well in the neighborhood will cause the other property owners to have issues with their wells.
- Summer meeting dates were discussed. Nelson will not be available for the June meeting and Stoler will not be available for the July meeting. Stoler & Nelson agreed to move the July meeting to July 15, 2026 provided Zamojski is available on that date.
- Michael Nelson was reelected to the Board of Health and the board will do a reorganization at the June meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 6:14 PM

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

Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Approved by: Rachel Steles

Date: 6/24/26

Documents:

April 22, 2026 Minutes;
Director's April 2026 Report;
Nurse's April 2026 Report;
Animal/Barn Inspector's April 2026 Report;
Model BOH Regulation for Private Wells, Guidance for BOH in using the Model Regulation;
Montague Board of Health Private Well Regulations (adopted 10/12/88, amended 12/20/23); and
Draft ANR for 4 Burek Dr (presented to Board by Goodridge at the meeting).