

# MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – 5:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

## Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Melanie Ames-Zamojski (Zoom), Michael Nelson and Rachel Stoler

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

**Other:** Charlotte Kuzmeskus, Craig Kuzmeskus, Andy Tessier, Jason Watroba, David Brule, Brittany Tuttle (Zoom)

**Michael Nelson opened the meeting at 5:00 PM**

**Melanie Ames-Zamojski joined via Zoom at 5:07 PM**

### **Minutes:**

May 22, 2024, Minutes

- The BOH Members reviewed the minutes of May 22, 2024.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Minutes as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

*Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye*

### **Director's Report:**

- Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the May 2024 Director's Report.
- Conducted inspections at 10-12 H St, 27 Center St, 63 Park St, 2 Coolidge Ave, 24 Grand Ave, and 25 Fourth St #13 and issued 2 orders to correct.
- Conducted outreach on 3 separate occasions to a total of 3 unhoused persons.
- Attended housing court case conference regarding 11 Meadow Rd.
- Sought access for an inspection at 33 Bridge St.
  - 33 Bridge St has been resolved and the unit is now vacant.
- Investigated noise, odor, and light pollution complaints regarding Flower Power.
  - Complaints have come from the camp properties as well as Ja'Duke. The Health Director continues to observe intermittent odor. The Health Director has also detected an odor on Millers Falls Rd near 253 Farmacy and that makes it hard to tell where the odor is coming from. Flower Power mixes an aerosol chemical with the HVAC exhaust and they have made tweaks over the years to try and address the odor issue.
- Conducted 13 inspections related to trash or nuisances at 11 separate addresses: outcomes include: resolving several complaints, 1 citation, 3 orders to correct and several re-inspections.
- Conducted 15 bi-annual inspections at Franklin Tech Cafeteria, Franklin Tech Apprentice Kitchen, Cousins Maine Lobster, Our Lady of the Peace Church, Hillcrest Elementary, Sheffield School, Country Creemee, Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Turners Falls High School Cafeteria, Ja'Duke Scoops, Nouria Energy, Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Head Start & Early Education G St, Head Start & Early Education Central St, and Subway respectively.
- Conducted pre-operations inspections at El Sotano, Savory & Soul, TeaTimes, Montague Retreat Center, and Stout Pigeon Coffee.
- Conducted walk through of Dreamhouse Restaurant (former Five Eyed Fox location).
  - As of 6/12/24 Dreamhouse had a successful pre-op inspection and are ready to open.

- Witnessed percolation testing and soil evaluation at 3 Taylor Heights and 392 Old Greenfield Rd.
- Completed system inspection of 334 Federal St.
- Attended monthly Valley Health Regional Collaborative Steering Committee Meeting.
- Attended monthly MAPCHO steering committee meeting.
- Attended Annual Town Meeting at Turners Falls High School on May 4, 2024.
- Attended Municipal Vulnerabilities Planning 2.0 Meeting.
- Attended MA PHIT Food Intensive Training (ongoing).
- Attended monthly FRCOG BOH Housing Roundtable.
- Discussion was had regarding the workload and the need for another inspector. The Health Director feels it has been busy since May and believes if the shared inspector position with the Valley Health Collaborative gets to a point where they are operating as intended that will help. The Health Director will keep the BOH posted.

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

*Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye*

#### **Nurse Report:**

- Brittany Tuttle presented the May 2024 Nurses Report.
- Continued with weekly office hours.
  - Phone calls with a couple of residents.
- Continued weekly and monthly meetings.
- Working on mosquito education.
  - Setup at Unity Park.
- MAVEN Report.
  - Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, Strep Pneumonia, Hep C, Hep B & Lyme.

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

*Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye*

#### **Animal/Barn Inspector Report:**

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

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

*Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye*

**Variance Request: Head Start & Early Learning Program – 110 G Street –** Votes may be taken.

- Review request from Head Start and Early Learning Program to vary the requirements of Section 5: Maintenance, of the Montague Board of Health Fats, Oils, and Grease Regulation for their 110 G Street location.
  - A written request asking that they only be required to do pumping every 6 months rather than monthly.
  - An Order to Correct was issued on 5/9/24 based on Section 5 which requires monthly maintenance or when the grease trap reaches 25% capacity.
  - There is discussion about possibly altering the regulation. The Health Director feels most facilities do not need to pump that often.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** that we approve the request for 110 G Street to approve a Variance for the FOG Regulation to do 6 months rather than monthly cleaning and further request Ryan in his free time work on coming up with a draft update to the FOG regulation for future review. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

*Vote taken by roll call: Stoler – aye, Ames-Zamojski – aye and Nelson – aye*

**Discussion: Request to waive fees for 2024 Peskeompskut Homelands Festival –** Votes may be taken.

- Review request from River Culture to waive fees for all temporary food permits for the annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.
  - Fees have been waived in the past. Temporary food licenses and permits generally do not have a fee if they are for a non-profit entity, the only caveat to this is that some of the entities applying for the permits are not non-profit but the festival itself is non-profit.
  - A typo was noted on the agenda it should read “Discussion: Request to waive fees for 2024 Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.”

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to waive the fee for the 2024 Pocumtuck Homelands Festival. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

*Vote taken by roll call: Ames-Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye*

**Discussion: Request for Permission for Temporary Housing at 24 Grand Ave –** Votes may be taken.

- Discuss request from Jason Watroba to allow temporary housing at 24 Grand Ave in a camper that is located on the property.
  - An anonymous complaint was received regarding a camper on the property with someone living in it. The complainant was concerned with the noise created by a generator that was running 24/7 and an Order to Correct was issued.
  - Jason Watroba is present and explains he is helping a friend who needed a place to stay and allowed him to park his camper on his property and stay there. The restroom and shower in the house are used as facilities or outdoors. The generator is no longer running as Watroba has a 6-gauge wire running from the house to the camper. Watroba expects his friend to be there till September or October. Zamojski is not crazy about the use of the bathroom facilities. Watroba is willing to pay for pumping of the camper and having his friend use the bathroom in the camper. There is no water hookup to the camper, and he uses bottled drinking water. If he is cooking in the camper, it is in the microwave.
  - Mr. Brule and other neighbors in attendance are here because of the generator. Brule and others in attendance asked the board to write a condition that the generator cannot be run.
  - The Health Director asks that any further variance requests are in writing.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to grant the request for temporary housing for Jason Watroba at 24 Grand Avenue for the camper with the provision that there will be no generator run until September 30, 2024. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

Michael Nelson makes a friendly amendment to stipulate the water be sourced from the house and the camper's restroom be used for bodily functions.

Vote taken by roll call: Stoler – aye, Ames-Zamojski – aye and Nelson – aye

**Discussion: Review FY25 Public Health Nurse Contract** – Votes may be taken.

- Discuss renewal of public health nursing contract with Brittany Tuttle, RN.
  - No other changes were made to the contract other than dates.
  - Brittany Tuttle is present and did not have any requests for her new contract.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the contract for FY25 for the Public Health Nurse services. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

Vote taken by roll call: Ames-Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

**Discussion: Reorganization of the Board** – Votes may be taken.

- Discuss reorganization of Montague Board of Health.
  - Board has agreed that Melanie Ames-Zamojski will continue as Chair, Nelson as Vice Chair and Stoler as Clerk.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** that Melanie Ames-Zamojski continue as chair with Michael Nelson as vice chair and Rachel Stoler as clerk. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

Vote taken by roll call: Stoler – aye, Ames-Zamojski – aye and Nelson – aye

**Discussion: Rescheduling December Meeting** – Votes may be taken.

- Discuss moving December meeting to another date.
  - The Health Director will be on vacation 12/18/24 to 12/24/24 and requests the board consider moving the December meeting to 12/11/24.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to change the December 2024 meeting from December 18 to December 11. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

Vote taken by roll call: Ames-Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

**Meeting adjourned: 5:34 PM**

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

*Vote taken by roll call: Ames-Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye*

Approved by: *Rachel Stoler*

Date: *7/17/24*

**Documents:**

May Minutes

Director's Report

Nurse's Report

Animal and Barn Inspector Report

FOG Regulation Compliance Request for Variance from 110 G Street

Montague Board of Health Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Regulation Section 5

Correction Order for 24 Grand Ave

Inspection Report for 24 Grand Ave

105 CMR 410.000 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation (State Sanitary Code, Chapter II)

Amended Agreement for Services by and Between Town of Montague and Brittany Tuttle