

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, July 17, 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: Marcy Gregoire (in person), Ezra Cushing (Zoom)

Michael Nelson opened the meeting at 5:00 PM

ROLL CALL VOTES TAKEN AS MELANIE AMES-ZAMOJSKI JOINED VIA ZOOM

Minutes:

June 12, 2024, Minutes

- The BOH Members reviewed the minutes of June 12, 2024.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the June 12th Minutes as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Roll Call Vote: Ames-Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Director's Report:

- Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the June 2024 Director's Report.
- Conducted inspections at 73 Fourth St #2, 191 Greenfield Rd, and 29 Avenue A. All were issued order to correct and are ongoing.
- Conducted outreach to a total of 1 unhoused person.
- Lifted condemnation of 89 Mormon Hollow Rd.
- Investigated odor complaints regarding Flower Power Growers.
- Conducted 18 inspections related to trash or other nuisances at 13 separate addresses; outcomes include: resolving several complaints, 3 citations, 3 order to correct and several reinspection's.
- Conducted 15 bi-annual inspections at First Congregational Church, Love Bites Bakery, Walgreens, St. Stanislaus Society, Carroll's Market, Lady Killigrew Café, Thomas Memorial GC, Franklin Area Survival Center, Food City, Red Fire North, Scotty's on the Hill, Miller's Pub, Millers Falls Library, Upper Bend Café, and the Free Store.
- Conducted pre-operational inspections at Dreamhouse Restaurant, Stray's Pizza, and Nice Snack Parlor.
- Conducted reinspection's of Thomas Memorial GC, Dreamhouse, Nice Snack Parlor and Lady Killigrew.
- Completed system inspections at 199 Old Sunderland Rd & 269 Federal St.
- Issued Disposal System Construction permits at 3 Taylor Heights & 390 Millers Falls Rd.
- Issued well construction permit to 285 Old Greenfield Rd.
- Permitted and inspected Montague Summer Camp & Wolf Tree Summer Camp respectively.
- Completed annual inspection of Turners Falls High School Pool.
- Investigated and responded to tobacco related complaint regarding Family Dollar.
- Attended monthly Valley Health Regional Collaborative Steering Committee Meeting.
- Attended monthly MAPCHO steering committee meeting and Annual Full Coalition meeting.

- Stoler asks if BOH members should attend meetings as well. The Health Director attends the meeting as the representative and Michael Nelson is the alternate, but anyone can attend the meetings.
- Attended June 24, 2024, Selectboard Meeting to discuss cannabis odor complaints regarding Flower power Growers.
- Attended Municipal Vulnerabilities Planning 2.0 Meeting.
- Completed MA PHIT Food Intensive Training.
- Completed a walkthrough of Flower Power Growers facility.
- Posted 2024 Fish Consumption advisories along Millers River and Connecticut River.

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

Roll Call Vote: Ames-Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Nurse Report:

- Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the July 15, 2024, Nurses Report.
- Health Screenings/Consults/Clinics/Community Outreach - Continued with weekly office hours and check in with MPRD.
 - Brittany has moved into the summer months, which has opened up her availability for alternative office hours.
- Meetings - Weekly check in with Jack.
- Webinars - DPH.
- Educational Outreach - Continue to reach out to local churches and suppers.
- MAVEN Report.
 - Lyme, 9; Hep C, 1; Salmonellois, 2; HGA, 1; Norovirus, 1; Hep B, 1.

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

Roll Call Vote: Ames-Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- Health Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the June 2024 Animal Inspector Report.
- 1 quarantine for June 2024.
- 1 dog issues.
- No Barn Inspections.

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

Roll Call Vote: Ames-Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Variance Request: Nice Snack Parlor Handwash Sink – Votes may be taken.

- Review request to vary provisions of food code related to requirement to install plumbed and/or permanent handwash sink in food preparation area.

- Marcy Gregorie is present and is asking for a variance for the use of a temporary hand wash sink. A temporary hand wash sink has always been used as there is not a permanent hand wash sink available in the food prep area. There is a bathroom that can be used but is 10-15 ft away and is a shared bathroom with Nova Motorcycles. The temporary sink is an insulated cooler with a foot pedal and the water is refreshed every 2-3 hours. No major type of food prep is being done and they usually operate 2-3 days a week and this will be their fourth season operating.

*Melanie Ames-Zamojski **Motioned** that the Board of Health has approved a variance to utilize a temporary hand wash sink as a permanent hand washing fixture in this food preparation area. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

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

Variance Request: 285 Old Greenfield Rd Emergency Well Construction – Votes may be taken.

- Review request for variance for siting of well construction at 285 Old Greenfield Rd.
 - Ezra Cushing contacted the Board of Health because they were responding to a well failure. 285 Old Greenfield Rd had a wall collapse. Ezra Cushing is requesting a variance from the required setback distance of 150 ft from the leaching field and are currently 109 ft away. Cushing & Sons provided a report indicating the presence of coliform bacteria, not fecal coliform. There was also a presence of iron and manganese in excess of the Montague Well Regulation Standards. Per the well regulations there has to be zero detection of coliform bacteria, and the standards for iron and manganese must be met in order to issue a water supply certificate. Ezra confirms they have chlorinated the well and that should eliminate the bacteria. If it is naturally occurring a UV light system would be installed. As for the iron and manganese, a water softener system will be installed to remove those contaminants and get them within standard. Cushing & Sons does not intend to request variances for the water quality. Lab results will be provided to the board of health before the COC is issued.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the variance allowing the setback requirement from 150 ft down to 109 ft. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

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

Discussion: Updating Regulations for Sale of Retail Tobacco – Votes may be taken.

- Discuss changes to Massachusetts model regulations for the sale of retail tobacco and timeline for updating Montague Board of Health Regulations for the Sale of Retail Tobacco.
 - The Valley Health Collaborative has a goal of updating the tobacco regulations in its member communities and Montague's regulations have not been updated for a while. The Health Director wanted to bring this to the Board's attention and has provided the Board with a sample regulation put together by Meg Tudryn. The Board will review and discuss further after reviewing. To assist in discussion the health director will prepare a document highlighting required changes and optional policy based on Montagues current regulation.

Discussion: Fees for Beaver Permit issued to Water Departments – Votes may be taken.

- Discuss historic practice of waiving fees for Turners Falls and Montague Center Water Departments.
 - The BOH issues 10-day emergency beaver permits to private residences as well as to the Turners Falls Water Department and the Montague City Water District. The Health Director asks the Board of health if they would like to continue

charging the water departments. In the past the fee has been waived. Discussion is had the Board considers them semi-quasi government and agrees to waive the fees. The revenue generated would not be significant.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to waive the fees for the Turners Falls and Montague Cetner Water Departments for their beaver permits. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

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

Discussion: Ongoing Cannabis Odor Complaints regarding Flower Power – Votes may be taken.


- Director to provide update on recent Selectboard meetings and investigation of odor complaints regarding Flower Power Growers, Inc.
 - The Health Director has been receiving odor complaints regarding Flower Power and attended a SB meeting last week. The Health Director has had internal meetings with Flower power as well as the building department and town administration. To date the health director has not classified this as a nuisance and there has not been any enforcement action. The Health Director is working with those involved to try and address this as a community. All complaints are recorded on an excel sheet and all parties involved are being kept aware of all findings. There is an in-person SB meeting scheduled for 8/19/24 and the Health Director will attend.

Unanticipated Topics: Shared Inspector Update: The health director states the position is posted and the other person who was in that position has been terminated. Currently we do not have a shared inspector, but it is currently posted as a full-time position.

Meeting adjourned: 5:53 PM

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

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

Approved by: 

Date: 8/21/24

Documents:

June Minutes

Director's Report

Nurse's Report

Animal and Barn Inspector Report

Cushing & Sons Request for Variance at 285 Old Greenfield Rd

2024 Sample Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco and Vape Products

Flower Power Growers Complaint Log