

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 – 5:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Melanie Ames-Zamojski (Zoom), Rachel Stoler and Michael Nelson (attended via zoom at 5:10 pm)

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

Other:

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

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

Minutes:

July 17, 2024, Minutes

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

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the July 21st Minutes as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

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

Director's Report:

- Director, Ryan Paxton, presented the July 2024 Director's Report.
- Conducted inspections at 1 Park Villa Dr, 16 Chestnut ST, 191 Greenfield Rd, 600 Fairway Dr, 73 Fourth St, 108 Third St, 12 Federal St, 11 Millers Falls Rd, and 29 Avenue A. Many complaints were resolved but several are ongoing.
- Lifted condemnation of 12 Federal St.
- Investigated complaints regarding Suzee's Laundromat.
- Conducted 18 inspections related to trash or other nuisances at 12 separate addresses; outcomes include: resolving several complaints, 2 citations, 7 order to correct and several re-inspections.
- Conducted 13 bi-annual inspections at the Rendezvous, CeCe's Chinese Restaurant, St. Kazimierz Society, Shady Glen, Great Falls Harvest Restaurant, Turners Falls Pizza House, Harvey's, Element Brewing, Montague Elks Lodge, El Napolito, Whistle Stop Café, and Pioneer Valley Brewery.
- Conducted 3 temporary food establishment inspections at Troutstock Fest (held at Millers Falls Rod & Gun).
- Inspected Turners Falls Farmer's Market.
- Conducted re-inspections of the Free Store, Whistle Stop Café, the Rendezvous and Turners Falls Pizza House.
- Witnessed percolation testing and soil evaluation at 44 Randall Rd and 49 Hillside Rd.
- Issued Disposal system Construction permits at Parcel #52-0-130 (West Chestnut Hill Rd) and 49 Hillside Rd.
- Completed system inspection of 3 Taylor Heights.
- Conducted compliance checks at all tobacco retailers to ensure compliance with latest memo regarding "non-menthol" products. Fine for violation issued to Family Dollar.
- Issued an emergency 10-day beaver permit to Turners Falls Water Dept.
- Attended monthly Valley Health Regional Collaborative Steering Committee Meeting.
- Attended monthly MAPCHO steering committee meeting.
- Attended Municipal Vulnerabilities Planning 2.0 Meeting.

- hire a professional to do the evaluation with the Health Director witnessing and the cost would be the property owner's responsibility.
- The BOH determines the fee for green burial evaluation will be \$175 for the first 2 hours.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** that we require property owners who are considering green burial to hire a certified soil evaluator to do the soil evaluation and witnessed by Ryan Paxton, Director of Health. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

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

*Melanie Ames-Zamojski **Motioned** to establish a fee for the witness of soil evaluation for a home site green burial to be \$175.00. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Roll Call Vote: Stoler – aye, Ames-Zamojski – 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.
 - To pass any changes there will need to be a public hearing and it will need to be posted in the legal section for a total of 14 days (7 days for each posting).
 - The BOH will review and discuss any changes at an upcoming BOH meeting and work towards a public hearing.

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 received 65 complaints from 4 camp residents.*
 - *Discussion was had about possibly using something similar to an air quality device. The health director is unsure if a device exists but also discusses the fact that cannabis has 100's of compounds that could make it hard to analyze.*
 - *The health director has reached out the Cannabis Control Commission but did not find them to be very helpful they will support the town but will not do any enforcement themselves.*

Meeting adjourned: 5:42 PM

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

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

Approved by: _____

Rachel Stoler

Date: _____

9/17/24

Documents:

July Minutes

Director's Report

Nurse's Report

Animal and Barn Inspector Report

Information for Local Boards of Health on Home Burials and Green Burials

Sample Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco and Vape Products

105 CMR 665.000 Minimum Standards for Retail Sale of Tobacco and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems

Flower Power Complaint Log