

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – 5:00 pm
Downstairs Meeting Room – Montague Town Hall
Turners Falls, MA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Al Cummings, Christopher Boutwell, Michael Nelson

Staff: Health Director, Daniel Wasiuk & Board of Health Clerk, Anne Stuart

Guest: Jane Alessandra – Resident Montague Center, MA. , Kyla Bennett of PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) and Annie Levine – Farmers Market Coordinator

Meeting being recorded.

Meeting offered through Zoom.

Al Cummings opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Minutes: Board of Health Meeting March 17, 2021

- Board of Health members discussed and no changes or additions were noted.

Michael Nelson Motioned to accept the March 17, 2021 Board of Health Minutes as presented. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. Motion passes.

Roll Call Vote: *Michael Nelson – aye, Christopher Boutwell – aye, Al Cummings – aye*

Director's Report March 2021

- Daniel shared that he has been responding to many housing and nuisance complaints including residents not picking up after dogs that have defecated on public ways. This is an ongoing issue and the Town of Montague has regulations in place but given the nature it is hard to enforce if you are not witnessing the act.
- Anne continues to help our residents schedule vaccine appointments where available in the community. She has followed up with each of them after receiving their shots and has gotten an overwhelming appreciation for holding the clinics in town and in the new Annex Space.
- Septic plans and well permits are starting to come in given the time of the year.
- Daniel has started annual food inspections for the local establishments.

Michael Nelson Motioned to accept the Directors Report as presented. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. Motion passes.

Roll Call Vote: *Michael Nelson – aye, Christopher Boutwell – aye, Al Cummings – aye*

Nurse's Report March 2021 & April 2021

- Cheryl has assisted in Congregate Housing and Town Hall Annex Clinics as requested along with hosting UMASS students for this semester to create Public Health Nurse web page documents. Anne assisted with the clinics and prepared and processed all paperwork associated with giving the vaccines and the inputting into the state MIIS system as required by the vaccine coordinator.
- Board of Health members discussed and no changes or additions were noted.

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Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Nurse's Report as presented. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.**

Roll Call Vote: Michael Nelson – aye, Christopher Boutwell – aye, Al Cummings – aye

Discussion: Farmers Market Permits and Application Fees

Guest: Annie Levine

- Annie Levine wrote a letter asking for the Montague Board of Health to consider waiving the \$50.00 application fee for the 2021 season citing the continued hardship for vendors due to the ongoing pandemic.
- The Board of Health members discussed and want to continue to encourage and support the farmers market during these times so will waive the fee for the 2021 season.

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to waive the \$50.00 Farmers Market fee for the 2021 season. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.**

Roll Call Vote: Michael Nelson – aye, Christopher Boutwell – aye, Al Cummings – aye

Discussion: Mosquito Pesticide Application

Guest: Kyla Bennett of PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) and Jane Alessandra

- Kyla Bennett and Jane Alessandra offered their opinions and concerns on why to opt out of Mosquito Spraying including Jane Alessandra's own personal health sensitivity to chemicals.
- After some discussion, Daniel was directed by the Montague Board of Health to work on an alternative plan for mosquito control and methods. The main issue will be to know what the capacity of the municipality would be. The health department will handle a combined educational outreach (pamphlets) with source reduction. The department of public works (DPW) would have to work with the planning department to do water management, culvert maintenance and address wetlands throughout the town to ensure the safety of our residents.
- The Montague Board of Health, as of tonight will now join the Montague Conservation Commission in giving their recommendation to opt out of Mosquito Spraying to the Selectboard for their meeting to be held on April 26, 2021. After which if the Select board votes to opt out it will then need a draft proposal to be done by Daniel Wasiuk, Health Director which will be due on May 15, 2021 for state review.

Christopher Boutwell **Motioned** to opt out of the state's Mosquito Pesticide Application Program for the Town of Montague. Seconded by Al Cummings. **Motion passes.**

Roll Call Vote: Christopher Boutwell – aye, Al Cummings – aye, Michael Nelson – aye

Meeting adjourned: 5:56 PM

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to adjourn the monthly Board of Health meeting at 5:56 PM. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.**

Roll Call Vote: Christopher Boutwell – aye, Michael Nelson – aye, Al Cummings – aye

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

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Documents:

March 17, 2021 Minutes

Director's Report

Nurse's Report

Farmers Market Request – Annie Levine

State Mosquito Spraying – Jane Alessandra & various residents' emails in support of opting out of mosquito spraying

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Plan