

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 – 5:00 pm
Upstairs Meeting Room – Montague Town Hall
Turners Falls, MA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Al Cummings, Melanie Ames Zamojski, Michael Nelson

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

Guests: Ariel Shira & Julian Mendoza

Meeting being recorded.

Meeting offered through Zoom.

Al Cummings opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Welcome and Introduction of new Board of Health member:

- Melanie Ames – Zamojski was introduced to all of us and is happy to bring her nursing background to the board.

Reorganization of the Montague Board of Health

- After a brief discussion of roles it was decided that Al Cummings will remain as Chair Michael Nelson as Vice Chair and Melanie Zamojski as Secretary.
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*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the above appointments as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Re-appointment of Daniel Wasiuk as Director of Public Health

- The board members without hesitation voted to appoint Daniel Wasiuk as the Director of Public Health.

*Melanie Ames-Zamojski **Motioned** to appoint Daniel Wasiuk as Director of Public Health. Seconded by Michael Nelson **Motion passes.***

Discussion: Contract Tracing Shared Services Grant

- This would be a two year grant with a possible 2 year extension if needed. The following towns of Montague, Sunderland in cooperation with the Greenfield Health Department are the designees with Greenfield designated as the host of the grant.
- Daniel explained that this grant has moved rather quickly and he had to act on it on behalf of the Board of Health as the due date was immediate. Melanie noted that there will have to be more of a discussion regarding the requirements of the grant including the requirement of hiring an epidemiologist. The grant and that the contract should be put on the agenda for the Montague Selectboard to review at their next meeting.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to move forward with the grant process. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

Topic Not Anticipated: COVID-19 Vaccinations

- Melanie brought to the attention of the Montague Board of Health that the priority of the Department of Public Health is to target persons of color and in specific age categories to try and reach the goal of 75% of the population being vaccinated.
- A brief discussion focused on how we can do targeted outreach in our Town. Anne Stuart suggested partnering with Mike Jackson and others at the Brick House to help with vaccine accessibility with the younger populations.
- Melanie also suggested print communication to our community; The Montague Reporter being a great vehicle for this.
- The proposed action steps for this are: for Melanie to discuss with Cheryl about holding a vaccine clinic for the targeted populations and how to execute and outreach to these populations.

Topic Not Anticipated: Christopher Boutwell

- Michael Nelson wanted to officially thank Christopher Boutwell for his decades of service on the Montague Board of Health. Michael noted that a plaque or something to honor Chris and his many years of service should be done. Daniel and Anne will look into getting something to celebrate and honor outgoing member Christopher Boutwell.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to approve and purchase a plaque or something to honor Christopher Boutwell for his service. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to adjourn at 5:18 PM. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Meeting adjourned: 5:18 PM

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Documents:

Appointment Form

Contract Tracing Shared Services Grant

State Vaccination report for Montague by Age and Ethnicity