

# MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, August 18, 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

**Meeting being recorded.**

**Al Cummings opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.**

### **Minutes: June 14, 2021**

- After a brief discussion of the June minutes from the joint meeting with the Select board the vote was taken.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the June minutes as presented. Seconded by Al Cummings. **Motion passes.** Melanie Ames Zamojski abstained*

### **Minutes: June 16, 2021**

- After a brief discussion of the June minutes the vote was taken.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the June minutes as presented. Seconded by Al Cummings. **Motion passes.** Melanie Ames Zamojski abstained*

### **Minutes: July 7, 2021**

- After a brief discussion of the July minutes the vote was taken.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the June minutes as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

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

- Daniel continues to monitor 493 A Federal Street due to the gross insanitary conditions observed in the interior of the dwelling. The owner's friend is complying with the corrective-actions but will need to continue the clean up to gain full compliance at this property.
- 3 Green Pond Road is consistently being monitored due to the exterior insanitary conditions and Board of Health fees have been and continue to be applied to gain compliance.
- With the Board of Health fees Anne coordinates with Karen Tonelli and Eileen Seymour to attach them to the real estate taxes yearly.
- There has been observed extensive amount of mixed rubbish, old lawn equipment, and metal debris in the yard areas at 20 Millers Falls Road. An order to correct has been issued.
- 19 Sherman Drive continues to be in non-compliance with Board of Health fees continuing on a monthly basis.
- Melanie Ames Zamojski brought up a question regarding an issue with a septic system. Daniel responded to this situation by meeting with the installer and designer due to a septic system installation being installed without a plan submitted to the Montague Board of Health office.
- Michael brought up an issue regarding the ongoing debris on the side of the road and what is being done about this situation and are they hit automatically with a fee.

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This situation occurs frequently when tenants move in and out or when individuals want to get rid of an item. When this situation arises or is brought to our attention, the Board of Health goes out and observes the condition, composes a letter which is then sent to the owner on record to have the items removed. If items are not removed and especially items that degrade (mattresses, upholstered furniture) a letter with a fee is then attached.

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the recent Director's Report as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski.  
**Motion passes**

#### **Recent Nurse's Report:**

- Melanie asked if the flu vaccine for the Town of Montague has been ordered for the season. Cheryl Volpe, PHN has ordered the flu vaccine and it is due to arrive in September.
- Melanie asked if Cheryl or Daniel attend the weekly Department of Public Health meetings. Cheryl has attended the meetings along with the MAVEN ones.
- Consideration of holding a flu clinic during the Great Falls Festival with nursing students help.
- We can do a Flu Clinic at the Great Falls Festival with Cheryl and nursing students or additional help. Michael noted that there are spaces available to do the clinic and is willing to give 3 spaces to accommodate.

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the recent Nurse's Report as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski.  
**Motion passes**

#### **Discussion: Temporary Food Events**

- A discussion was held in regards to temporary food events happening again in the town including Barbes in the Woods, Soap Box Derby & Great Falls Festival. We want to continue to stress that the temporary food applications need to be in the Board of Health office with payment 14 days prior to the events to process. A discussion was had regarding instituting a late fee for temporary food applications received after the deadline (14 day deadline). Michael Nelson, as the event coordinator states it is his responsibility to coordinate with the vendors and the Board of Health to get applications in on time and this is the role of the event coordinator. This idea will be discussed further with the review of the fee schedule at years end.

#### **Discussion: Covid-19**

- Michael shared that in his role at DPH in Central MA the hospitals are struggling to accommodate and care for the individuals.
- Melanie shared that FMC has 2 individuals in ICU in a 4 bed unit currently. 1 of the individuals is vaccinated. In the last two weeks about 30% of the cases that she has contract traced for have been vaccinated with the individuals not being very sick due to the COVID-19 virus.
- Melanie pointed out that there have been some clusters in town and in Erving that have been problematic. The bigger issue according to Department of Public Health (DPH) is that the Contract Tracing Collaborative (CTC) are 7,000 individuals behind with 3,000 of those individuals already in the system with no contact being made. The other 4,000 individuals are still waiting for phone calls and without knowing those individuals' contacts to be able follow up. At this point, no one is being tracked that is using the CTC which is a big problem from her view point. The CTC is in the process of hiring back folks that they previously had on board.
- Melanie will be getting into MAVEN for Montague and is willing to assist with Covid-19 contract tracing within the town of Montague if assistance by Cheryl Volpe is needed.

- Melanie believes that it is time to let go of CTC due to the lack of follow through and volume. She also noted that the CTC will not be handling Higher Education and schools in general and that this will now go through the local Boards of Health.
- The Contract Tracing Shared Services Grant is a two year grant with an extension if needed. The grant would cover the towns of Montague, Sunderland with Greenfield being the host of the grant. The grant is still in process of being approved at the state level.
- Melanie Ames Zamojski offered that The Gill-Montague School district has decided to require mask wearing during the school day to be revisited later in the fall. Gill MA sent a letter supporting the use of mask wearing in the schools to Brian Beck.
- Daniel stated we as the Board of Health were asked our opinion in the past regarding COVID-19 protocols in the school. However, the decision ultimately lies with the School Board and their government agency which is the Massachusetts Department of Education and Secondary Education (DESE). Daniel reconfirmed that the schools and their boards continue to handle protocols within the school system.
- If we want to do the vaccination van in town Anne suggested to park it near the Country Creamee or another heavy traffic area.
- There have been no calls regarding mask wearing or new protocols for the Town of Montague. Michael Nelson stated he is not in favor of or mandating indoor mask wearing which was echoed by Melanie Ames Zamojski.
- The Governor of Massachusetts, Charles Baker has stated there will be no change in the COVID-19 protocols.

**Topics Not Anticipated:**

- Daniel brought up the use of the nurse’s office by other departments, individuals; which he feels puts the privacy of the individuals in jeopardy and wanted to get the boards feeling on this. After a brief discussion, the entire board supports the office being for the Board of Health use only. Melanie believes that there can be a better spot to locate folks and not in that office. Daniel will speak to the Select board to set up a meeting with Melanie giving him some backup support.
- Mosquito outreach has been happening by the Board of Health’s Arbovirus Coordinators. Anne designed a flier with input from Cheryl Volpe, PHN for educational outreach and they have been distributed through Town Departments, various local businesses.

Melanie Ames Zamojski Motioned to adjourn at 6:08 PM. Seconded by Michael Nelson.

Motion passes.

**Meeting adjourned: 6:08 PM**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Documents:**

June Minutes

July Minutes

June Joint Meeting with Select board Minutes

Directors Report

Nurse Report

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