

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 – 5:30 pm

Montague Town Hall
First Floor Meeting Room
Turners Falls, MA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Al Cummings, Chair, Christopher Boutwell, and Michael Nelson (left 6:10 PM)

Staff: Gina McNeely, Health Director and Anne Stuart, Health Clerk

Guests: Ilana Gerjuoy – Prevention Strategies Coordinator- FRCOG, John and Kathleen Burek

Minutes from June 20, 2018:

Michael Nelson motioned to accept the June 20, 2018 Minutes. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. Motion passes.

Minutes from July 18, 2018:

Michael Nelson motioned to accept the July 18, 2018 Minutes. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. Motion passes.

Director's Report for July 2018:

- Tabled until the September meeting.

Health Inspector's Report for July 2018:

- Tabled until the September meeting.

Presentation & Discussion:

Guest: Ilana Gerjuoy, Prevention Strategies Coordinator FRCOG

- Ilana Gerjuoy, Prevention Strategies Coordinator with the FRCOG gave the Board a brief introduction to policy options for Towns to prevent substance addiction and youth access to addictive substances and how the CTCC works.

Ilana informed the Board that there has been a coalition formed called Communities That Care Coalition (CTCC) and they are a data-driven and evidence-based coalition looking at risk factors, domains and protective factors that surround substance addiction and youth access to addictive substances. The CTCC believes that municipal policies can be protective factors for our youth and are encouraging towns to put such policies in place. Ilana chairs a subgroup called policy and practice change which is targeted for municipal communities and leaders.

The CTCC also feels that there is a need to balance youth access while encouraging business development in our cities and towns. In doing so, the need to engage different sectors of the community by outreaching to the media, municipalities, parents and families, to the school districts, hospitals on to human service agencies is a necessity to create this balance.

Some policy options Ilana pointed out related to our special events in Montague. For example, the Mutton & Mead Festival and Great Falls Festival draw large crowds of various ages. An example of a policy that is used: giving bracelets to those old enough to drink; an improvement on this would be for the event organizers to do hand-stamps which are non transferable to a youth or under age person. Another

example is: to have areas that are restricted (a beer tent) that also includes an id check upon entry into this restricted area.

Ilana also touched on how the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB) has a template regulation that includes several optional provisions for municipalities to choose from, including local BOH oversight and the right to inspect facilities that manufacture or serve edible marijuana products.

In closing, Ilana reiterated that we know prevention works when we engage our different sectors and this is shown by the data in a graph showing that alcohol use, binge drinking, marijuana and cigarette use is all down in our communities due to policies and preventative measures. She did state that vaping is at a very high rate among teens and that the Department of Public Health is working on youth vaping prevention measures currently given the high risk factors.

Hearing:

Regarding the failed septic system located at 4 Burek Drive Montague, MA.

Guests: John and Kathleen Burek

- Gina McNeely, Health Director gave an update to the Board of Health members on the situation with John and Kathy Burek of 4 Burek Drive regarding their septic system; which is currently in failure and handed out a synopsis of the time line of events, soil evaluation report, a map of the property and a copy of the proposed enforcement order.

There is currently a land dispute that is holding up the process of the soil absorption portion of the septic system being replaced. The location of the Burek's soil absorption system is on a parcel that is jointly owned by John and Kathleen Burek and Carol Leh (David J. Leh Trustee of the Leh Family Realty Trust of Montague in the County of Franklin).

John and Kathleen have made some progress including hiring Kathryn Bridges, RS to conduct a partial Title 5 inspection, including soil evaluations and a perc test with Gina McNeely witnessing it for the Town of Montague in July 2018.

John and Kathleen have been informed by their lawyer and through court documents that they are not to install a septic system on the joint owned land until items in land court are settled. John and Kathleen anticipate a hearing and issues to be heard as soon as October. Gina McNeely and the Board understand the Burek's position but they have the duty to protect the public, including drinking water resources. Given that fact, Gina advises the Montague Board of Health to issue a Title 5 Enforcement Order which mandates the Burek's to repair/replace the soil absorption system serving 4 Burek Drive in full compliance with 310 CMR 15.000 and all other applicable laws and regulations no later than May 16, 2019. Gina also noted that this official vote might help the Burek's get some resolution in their court case.

*Al Cummings motioned to sign the Title 5 Enforcement Order for the failed septic system located at 4 Burek Drive Montague, MA and that all needed repairs and/or replacement be done according to 310 CMR 15.000 by May 16, 2019 or it will result in the condemnation of the dwelling. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.***

*Christopher Boutwell motioned to adjourn the Montague Board of Health meeting at 7:02 PM. Seconded by Al Cummings. **Motion passes.***

Meeting adjourned: 7:02 PM

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

List of documents used at this meeting:

- June 2018 Minutes
- July 2018 Minutes
- 4 Burek Drive File
- FRCOG Handouts on Policy Options & CTCC