

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, March 17, 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: Melanie Zamojski

Meeting being recorded.

Meeting offered through Zoom.

Al Cummings opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Minutes: Board of Health Meeting February 17, 2021

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

Michael Nelson Motioned to accept the February 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 we in the office have been getting lots of calls concerning overflowing dumpsters, debris on the tree belts including but not limited to furniture, mattresses, and plastic items especially as the snow melts and the weather gets better. Property owners have been cited and the complaints have been logged by Anne.
- Anne has taken many calls regarding the frustration of our residents regarding the vaccine appointments through the Mass.gov website and the FRCOG. Most of our residents are not comfortable with the use of computers to pre-register or traveling distances including to large vaccine sites (Eastfield Mall, or any of the Eastern Massachusetts sites) especially since they have been being careful to social distance over the last year.

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

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

Nurse's Report February 2021 & March 2021

- Cheryl continues to be busy with the fields of Public Health nursing and COVID-19 assignments. Cheryl has assisted in Congregate Housing and Town Hall Annex Clinics as requested along with hosting UMASS students for this semester.
- Board of Health members discussed and no changes or additions were noted.

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

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

The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

Hearing: Variance request by Robert Obear, for a variance request regarding the lack of natural light due to reduced window size in the bedrooms of Unit #1 and #2 located at 26/28 East Main Street – 33 Bridge Street, Millers Falls.

- Robert Obear submitted in writing a variance request to the Montague Board of Health on March 2, 2021. The variance request is regarding the lack of natural light due to reduced window size in the bedrooms of Unit #1 and #2 located at 26/28 East Main Street – 33 Bridge Street, Millers Falls.
- Michael Nelson added the comment that he watched the transformation of Millers Falls Center and is familiar with that particular building and Robert Obear's quality construction work. In assessing the structure of the old building with its brick material and thickness especially with regards to the concern of the windows it would be impossible to alter it or the façade and Daniel Wasiuk also added that to remediate could adversely affect the structure and would recommend having both the request and response as part of the file.
- Daniel Wasiuk read aloud from the State Sanitary Code and a portion that pertains to the situation is listed here. Pursuant to State Sanitary Code (105 CMR 410.000), Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation, Sections 410.250 and 410.840. After discussions with Christopher Rice, Building Inspector and with the Board of Health members a determination was made by the Montague Board of Health to authorize the approval of the variance request by Robert Obear of Powers Block Properties, LLC. Consideration of the facts and opinion(s) of public health rationale, the decision was based on the premise of no conditions existing which endanger or impair health or safety and well-being of the person or persons occupying the premises.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to approve the variance request regarding the lack of natural light due to reduced window size in the bedrooms of Unit #1 and Unit #2 located at 26-28 East Main Street – 33 Bridge Street, Millers Falls, MA. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.***

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

Topics Not Anticipated Within the 48 Hours of Posting: Nurse Position

- Daniel Wasiuk, Health Director brought to the attention of the Board members that on March 10, 2021 the Finance Committee which Christopher Boutwell attended did an overview of the Nurse contract between the Montague Board of Health and the Town Public Health Nurse, Cheryl Volpe, RN. regarding the change of hourly rate and the working hours of 10-20 hours per week. The Finance Committee felt that this was acceptable and that they wanted to see more services offered through the Nurse as the COVID-19 situation changes and hopefully dies down.
- Michael Nelson said that he would defer to Daniel Wasiuk's opinion of what is needed or warranted in the Montague Board of Health at this time and going forward. Daniel will meet with Cheryl Volpe, RN and discuss the options.
- Christopher Boutwell mention that the 10-20 hours a week is good fit and it might be a stretch to get more than 20 hours a week for the nurse from the Finance Committee. He stressed that is would be good to have nurse office hours again, and that having the Board of Health and a Town Nurse is very important for our residents and community.
- The Finance Committee gave its seal of approval and just asked what other services could be done by Cheryl Volpe, RN going forward for the Town of Montague residents.

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Meeting adjourned: 5:45 PM

Christopher Boutwell **Motioned** to adjourn the monthly Board of Health meeting at 5:45 PM. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

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

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Documents:

February 20, 2021 Minutes

Director's Report

Nurse's Report

Variance Request – Robert Obear 26-28 East Main Street – 33 Bridge Street Millers Falls, MA