

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Thursday, December 2, 2021 – 5:00 pm
Upstairs Meeting Room – Montague Town Hall
Turners Falls, MA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Al Cummings, Melanie Ames Zamojski

Staff: Health Director, Daniel Wasiuk

Meeting being recorded.

Al Cummings opened the meeting at 5:10PM.

Discussion: COVID-19:

Discussion was lengthy among Board of Health members and staff.

- Melanie's point of discussion
 - Melanie would like to see the BOH to continue to view active cases and confirmed and probable
 - The COVID-19 numbers have increased after 5 days the town had 22 confirmed probable.
 - Nothing will be going to the CTC but we will have a grant with Greenfield as the lead in the near future.
 - Suspect cases increased in the two-weeks surrounding the Thanksgiving holiday.
 - Concerned with increase in numbers recently and wants to see how we can go back?
 - Given the upcoming holiday season we are likely to see an increase; not enough Montague residents are vaccinated Melanie believes.
 - Wish there were more clarification coming from the state.
 - Has been attending DPH meeting and wish politics should be wearing a mask
 - Feels more vaccinated individuals are needed, and would like to have a vaccine mandate because of the immune compromised individuals
 - Will reach out to Senator Comerford for added input to assist in politics as state is not doing anything.
- Michael's note read an entered into record for his point of discussion:
 - "Since I will not be there, my opinion on the matter is this: I don't feel qualified to make a decision about whether someone needs to wear a mask. With how incredibly politicized it has become, I believe those who want to wear a mask should continue to wear one if they desire, and those who don't don't. I suggest that we strongly advise people to wear a mask in indoor public settings but stop short of any sort of requirement. I would include having signage at our local establishments recommending mask wearing. I wish the state would take a stronger stance on how locals should be addressing the recent rises. But absent any guidance from them, I am reluctant to make any requirements.
- Al's point of discussion
 - This has gone on and should be left up to the individuals.
 - Agrees with Michael and will not vote for a mandated mask wearing.
- *Melanie Ames Zamojski **voted** to mandate mask wearing in indoor and outdoor public settings. Board of Health member Al Cummings **voted to NOT** mandate mask wearing in all public settings but to do an advisory that strongly recommends mask wearing, social distancing, handwashing, getting vaccinated. Michael Nelson was not present for the vote but expressed his opinion above.*

The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

- Discussion regarding the Public Nurse position:
 - Daniel shared with the group that the position could be 19 hours at higher payrate going forward or stay with the same hourly rate but do 20 hours with benefits. Cheryl would be interested; but not more than 20 hours at this point.
 - Melanie would like to see the nurse hours increase to 30 hours per week but that would still be a benefitted position.
 - Have office hours for the nurse and add homebound and working with the Senior Center going forward.
 - Melanie would like to see health equity to be accomplished with the non-English speaking population.
 - CTC case follow up needs phone calls made
 - State has new requirement for quarantine
 - A possibility is to divide up calls to get them off the “work flow” in MAVEN.
- Request to put on December agenda a discussion about DPH and Senator Comeford

Meeting adjourned: 6:32 PM

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to adjourn the monthly Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes***

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Documents:

Michael Nelson Email 12/2/2021