

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – 5:00 pm
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Present: Al Cummings, Melanie Ames Zamojski, Michael Nelson

Staff: Health Director, Daniel Wasiuk

Guests: Brendan Kenny & Luisa Barreat de Kenny, Julian Mendoza – Greenfield Recorder

Chair Al Cummings opened the meeting at 5:05 PM

January 5, January 19, 2022 Minutes and February 9, 2022 Minutes:

- Board members reviewed the minutes as presented.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the January 5, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the January 19, 2022 minutes with the edit of removing Al Cummings, Chair from being present. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye

Director's Report:

- Phone calls have decreased as of lately which is a nice change of pace given the office has been inundated with calls especially covid questions.
- Septic and Food should be increasing with Spring arriving. Daniel has been continuing to do the annual food inspections throughout town.
- Al Cummings noted that there was a new restaurant – Watershed listed and inquired where that was. The restaurant will be located in the old Alvah Stone location in Montague Center, MA. They had a soft opening and are now opened for business.

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

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye

Nurse's Report:

- Melanie noted on the report that we will be needing a new Health Director as Dr. Iverson will be retiring this year. Cheryl has already outreached to them to see if anyone will be willing to step up when she retires.
- Melanie asked what the “Ask the Nurse Category Item” Daniel explained that this entails phone calls and others asking about health issues (high blood pressure/diabetes/covid) some folks in office.
- Melanie noted one of the reported diseases along the Lyme & EEE disease would be good to track and has been significant in Franklin County particularly in Franklin County. She would like to see that reported.

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- Melanie asked about the UMASS collaboration and the time commitment it is taking around 3-4 hours and has approximately 5 students for the Spring semester. They have a course curriculum and was very happy to see the windshield survey and the community outreach.

*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to accept the Nurse's. Seconded by Michael Nelson.*

Motion passes.

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye

185 L Street – Brendan Kenny & Luisa Barreat de Kenny:

- Owners of 183-185 L Street a duplex in town
- The Board of Health members extended the Order to Correct notice for an additional 30 days
- There has not been a reinspection since the OTC
- The tenants have since vacated the property as of now
- Daniel said the issues at hand is that the findings that the homeowners said they are tenant caused. It is hard if not almost impossible to differentiate due to the housing code of where the finding lies
- The complaint came in from a mother of the tenant who led the BOH to believe she was a legal occupant at the dwelling. This turned out not to be true and then the daughter called and Daniel inspected and issued the OTC to the property owners Brendan Kenny & Luisa Barreat de Kenny.
- Brendan expressed that they could prove that the tenants caused the issues. He supplied before and after pictures, police reports and the insurance. The insurance adjuster came out to view the damage and assessed it at about \$7,000.00. Brendan felt it was more like \$5,000.00. The insurance adjuster listed it as vandalism and Brendan share a plethora of issues that happened and items that were left behind. There have been complaints with the police department along with court case.
- Michael Nelson stated that after his 18 years on the board things happen and that the goal is to make a property a habitable place and get it fixed within a reasonable time frame. Brendan is happy to make the needed repairs and get it back to where it was before the last tenants. He shared his craigs list listing and it was listed and is considered a 3 bedroom and was posted and responded upon with this criteria.
- Daniel and Brendan along with the Board of Health members discussed each issue on the OTC and if necessary, how to come to a reasonable solution for all parties involved.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to extend the order to correct time line to March 31,2022 and to remove the window in the room not a bedroom. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye

Board of Health Clerk Job Description:

- Daniel Wasiuk shared the Health Clerk Job Description and got input from Carolyn Olsen regarding the guidelines of what needs to happen to progress forward, and it needs to start with the Board of Health.

- The job responsibilities have continued to increase in many ways over the last few years and that needs to be recognized and addressed as it is now part of the daily operations in the Board of Health office. Anne has continued to meet and step up to provide the continuity of services for our residents. The office duties and processes have grown in both quantity and complexity over the course of Daniel's tenure here in Montague, MA
- Daniel supports and identifies job duties and responsibilities even pre-covid that are necessary and need to be added into the job description for the Department.
- Melanie asked the question regarding the titling of the Department: Health Department (Staff of the BOH) or Board of Health (BOH Members) along with Department Secretary/Health Clerk when the position really encompasses more skills and tasks to warrant the title and grade change.
- The process of approval is Board of Health Approval, Personnel Board/HR/Selectboard Approval and then to the NAGE Union.
- Daniel is looking forward to having an accurate job description to reflect the additional duties that have been added while considering they have changed greatly and will continue to do so with the evolving health environment.
- The BOH members will look over the job description and vote on it in March.

COVID-19 Mask Mandate

- The Board of Health member discussed the low COVID-19 Numbers as they were reported this week and voted to recommend to the Montague Selectboard to lift the mask mandates both within Town owned buildings as well as throughout the Town
- Michael Nelson reached out to the City of Greenfield last week to see where they were going with their mask mandates in anticipation of this meeting.
- DSSE has told the education entities to make their own decisions regardless of what a Town of City decides. Brian Beck did reach out to both Daniel and Randy for their input regarding mask mandates currently.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to recommend to the Selectboard to rescind the mask mandates both within Town owned buildings as well as the Town of Montague as of March 1, 2022. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes.**
Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye*

Topics Not Anticipated

- Melanie brought up the question of where we are with Mosquito Control. Daniel has checked weekly regarding the processes of the opt-out application to be renewed. The choices are opting out or doing the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control. There are \$10,000 available to enter the district. The initial joining is \$5,000 and then there is an all a cart menu of services with charges for each one. Daniel sent the vote that was made last

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summer to the state. There has not been any response to us from the state but Christopher Clay has gotten information that Montague wants to join. More information will be coming in the upcoming weeks and the Board will discuss it at the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 6:18 PM

*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to adjourn the Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**
Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye*

Approved by: _____

Date: _____