

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, March 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: Kathleen Burek and Rachel Stoler

Chair Al Cummings opened the meeting at 5:07 PM

February 23, 2022 Minutes:

- Board members reviewed the minutes as presented.

*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to accept the February 23, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**
Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye*

Director's Report:

- Septic season is starting up and plans have and will continue to come into the office.
- 3 Green Pond Rd continues to be in non-compliance and reinspection's have and will continue on a bi-weekly basis as schedules allow.
- 19 Sherman Drive continues to be in non-compliance and reinspection's have and will continue on a bi-weekly basis as schedules allow. Last year the fees assessed were paid by the resident's mortgage holder/bank. It has been noted that there is an illegal stove installed at this location and the Fire Department is aware of the situation.
- In terms of housing inspections and nuisances it has always been the position of the Board of Health that if there is an effort being made on the part of the property owner/tenant we are always willing to work with them.
- It is becoming Spring and with that brings added "free" items on the tree belts and the increase in complaint calls regarding this and who is responsible for their removal and the cost associated with it. The BOH tries to determine the location in which said items originated and send letters to those property owners to remove the items after a reasonable length of time. If there is non-compliance or the items have been abandoned, then the BOH enlists the help of the DPW in removing the items. There are bulky waste days offer through the Franklin County Solid Waste District (FCSWD) but those are only available a couple times a year at best, the cost and getting the items to the location is a burden and hinderance for our residents to be able to do the right thing. An anything goes day there once was and it would be great to fund and bring it back to encourage folks to spring clean and have the Town pick up and dispose of those items yearly.
- The other Spring item that is on the radar is dog feces and the lack of folks being responsible to pick up after their pets. The BOH regulation states that enforcement is done by Board of Health members, their agents, parks and recreation staff, police, animal control and animal inspectors. Penalties are as follows: A person who violates this regulation shall be fined \$25.00 for the first violation, \$50.00 for the second violation, and \$100 for the third and each subsequent violations within a calendar year. Individuals who

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continually violate this regulation will be subject to a hearing before the Board of Health under MGL c. 111 § 122 and may receive a fine of up to \$1000.00.

- The BOH would like to investigate waste stations that give out pooper scooper bags and offer disposal. The issue being what budget does this come from, where to place them, who is responsible for the upkeep (disposal of feces and where and refilling of the bags). Locations could be: Unity Park, Pesky Park, Rutters Park, Sheffield/Crocker Ave area, 5th Street, Millers Falls area.

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

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye

Nurse's Report:

- Case investigation continues along with MAVEN reporting
- Montague Reporter interview Cheryl Volpe and Anne Stuart regarding the UMASS student collaboration this semester and BOH topics.
- Attended Tuberculosis RN Case conference.
- Working on Public Health Topics and updating of the website with Anne.
- Cheryl and the UMASS students will present their work at the April Montague BOH meeting to be held on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 5 PM in the Annex. Please note this is a different day and location for next month's meeting.

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

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye

Discussion: Mosquito Control

- Daniel continues to check 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 funds of \$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 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. Daniel feels that Montague is in an acceptable position as the Town's plan was approved last year.

Discussion: COVID-19

- The Contract Tracing Grant allows us to have Robin Neipp handle COVID-19 items. As the cases decline, we continue to adjust duties for Robin. We will be opening a COVID-19 testing site at the Montague Town Hall Annex on Tuesdays April 5, 2022 – May 10, 2022 from 9:00 AM to Noon.

*Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to allow Robin Neipp to open a COVID-19 testing site for 6 weeks at the Town Hall Annex space. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye

Discussion: Board of Health Clerk Job Description

- To recap: 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 continues to support and identifies that the job duties and responsibilities even pre-covid that are necessary and need to be added into the job description for the Department.
- The process of approval is Board of Health Approval, Personnel Board/HR/Selectboard Approval and then to the NAGE Union.
- There were no further questions or discussions from the Board of Health members regarding the job upgrade and retitling. The BOH members support accepting the additional job duties and responsibilities and acknowledge that the position has evolved and encompasses more now and in the future.

Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to accept the new responsibilities and duties for the Departmental Assistant/Health Clerk job description as presented. *Seconded by Michael Nelson.*
Motion passes.

- *Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye*

Unanticipated Topic: Intermunicipal Grant

- Melanie gave an update regarding the addition of an epidemiologist position reporting to the Selectboard to standardize the COVID-19 numbers.
- The opportunity of a per diem Health Agent grant if needed was presented. It was noted that in the past the Montague BOH has been able to utilize the expertise of BOH members, clerk and/or professional colleagues in the area to fulfill the department duties when a director was absent for extended periods of time.

Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motioned** to investigate the per diem Health Agent grant. *Seconded by Michael Nelson.* **Motion passes.**

- *Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Cummings – Aye*

Meeting adjourned: 6:00 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: _____

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