

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Thursday, May 18, 2022 – 5:00 pm
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Present: Melanie Ames Zamojski, Michael Nelson and Rachel Stoler

Staff: Health Director- Daniel Wasiuk, Board of Health Clerk - Anne Stuart

Guests: Montague Reporter-Jeff Singleton & Mike Jackson, Julian Mendoza – Greenfield Recorder, Maureen McNamara and Al Cummings.

Michael Nelson opened the meeting at 5:00 PM and thanked the outgoing Chair, Al Cummings for his almost 2 decades of service to the Montague Board of Health.

Reorganization of the Board:

- Michael Nelson welcomed new Board member Rachel Stoler.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to appoint Melanie Ames Zamojski as Chair, Michael Nelson as Vice Chair and Rachel Stoler as Secretary. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motion passes.** Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Stoler – Aye*

April 21, 2022 Minutes:

- Board members reviewed the minutes as presented.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the April 21, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motion passes.***

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Stoler Abstains

Director's Report:

- Daniel Wasiuk described the Director's report and processes for Rachel Stoler's benefit.
- Continuation of issues with debris left on the tree belts in town. Daniel is in discussions with Steve Ellis and Tom Bergeron to set up some systems and protocols to address these issues as they are ongoing. Some suggestions have been a monthly collection by the DPW with a scheduled pick up and appointment ahead of time. It was suggested by board members that property owners build the cost of picking up items at curbside into the lease/security deposit portion of the document.
- We had a vicious Dog hearing under the Selectboard with Calin Giurgiu – Animal Control and Kathy Burek – Animal Inspector in attendance. In these cases, the Board of Health's role is in the quarantining of the animal which Kathy does. All hearings go through the Selectboard for decisions and consequences.
- There is a new restaurant opening called El Nopalito which will serve both Mexican food as well as pizza.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Director's Report as presented. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Stoler – Aye

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Nurse's Report:

- Our Medical Director from Valley Medical Group is retiring, and we need standing orders to do clinics and a vaccine program. It was suggested that we check in with Connecticut River Internists, BFMC and possibly with Melissa Bednarski at the schools to see who they use there.
- Camp season is upon us and health policies and training for the 2 camp programs in town have begun. Daniel will do the pre-operational inspections when they are ready.
- Mosquito outreach within the town will begin in May and will continue with the poster designed by Anne and other items to meet the mosquito opt out requirements.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Public Health Nurse's Report as presented. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***
Nelson -Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Stoler – Aye

COVID -19 Discussion:

- Greenfield Community College is doing PCR testing again and Anne put up a link on the Montague Board of Health webpage.
- Through a grant we will have an epidemiologist, Jack Sullivan reporting out the COVID-19 numbers going forward.
- The intermunicipal grant includes 6 towns for shared nursing services and the most recent grant is for a per diem Health Agent to fill in when needed.
- Melanie Ames Zamojski brought up that the 2-week case number in Montague is around 56 and that Greenfield has 171 cases.
- Melanie Ames Zamojski would also like to see the wastewater being tested for COVID-19.
- Rachel Stoler would like to know what the equity and income loss and the mask impact on learning
- Daniel Wasiuk brought the stats regarding the COVID-19 cases from DSSE 5/5-5/11/2022 where out of 920,000 students and 140,000 staff 2.89% of the staff tested positive and only 1.45% of the students.
- The Mask Mandate was lifted on February 28, 2022.
- Discussion surrounding masking back in the schools for the remainder of the year. Currently if 2 kids test positive then the class must wear masks. Masks are also required in the Nurses office.
- Melanie Ames Zamojski would like to set up a meeting with the school leaders and nurse leaders regarding masking in the schools for the rest of the school year. Anne will send out an email to get folks availability in the next week or so.

Unanticipated Topics: Tick Testing

- Rachel Stoler requested if could we offer reimbursement or subsidize residents for tick testing given the expense.

Meeting adjourned: 6:13 PM

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to adjourn the Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Zamojski – Aye Nelson -Aye, Stoler – Aye

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

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