

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 – 5:00 pm
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Present: Melanie Ames Zamojski, Rachel Stoler, Michael Nelson

Staff: Health Director- Daniel Wasiuk, Health Clerk – Anne E. H. Stuart, Robin Neipp, RN - Contract Tracing Nurse, Jack Sullivan - Epidemiologist

Guests: Julian Mendoza – Greenfield Recorder, Jill Cote & Barbara Stechen – BeSMART Program

Melanie Ames Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:00 PM

July 20, 2022 Board of Health Minutes:

- Board members reviewed the minutes as presented.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the June 2022 minutes. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski **Motion passes.** Michael Nelson abstained.*

Zamojski – Aye, Stoler – Aye

Director Report:

- Housing complaints have been low recently
- Annual food inspections continue to occur with all licensed establishments in town.
- Septic system inspections have slow down. However, there has been a lot of activity on Fosters Road recently due to perc tests.
- Upcoming events RPM festival, Soap Box Derby, and the Great Falls Festival applications are starting to come in and be processed by Anne.
- Whistle Stop has come into compliance with both the TF Fire Department and Building Department.
- We are going to be starting Community Inspection & Compliance meetings

There was no vote as there was not a written report given this month.

Nurse's Report:

- Cheryl Volpe RN, BSN reported that she is waiting to hear from the GMRSD nurse leader, Melissa Bednarski regarding a possible Medical Director for the Montague BOH.
- A continued community outreach project for our mosquito control plan is possible placement of bat houses at the parks around town. Researching and discussions are in process.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Nurse's report. Seconded by Rachel Stoler **Motion passes.***

Nelson- Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Stoler – Aye

- The Board members reviewed the report for the last month.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Animal and Barn Inspector's report. Seconded by Michael Nelson **Motion passes.***

Nelson – Aye, Zamojski – Aye, Stoler – Aye

Old Business:

- Robin Neipp, RN Contract Tracing Nurse BeSMART Gun Safety Presentation with Jill Cote & Barbara Stechen.
 - Robin Neipp, RN initiated a presentation for BeSMART, a group she is a member of for the Board of Health meeting.
 - Everytown for Gun Safety launched the BeSMART campaign to take action to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce child gun deaths. The campaign focuses on education and awareness about child gun deaths and secure gun storage. BeSMART has five simple steps to prevent shootings by children:
 1. **S**ecure all guns in your home and vehicles
 2. **M**odel responsible behavior around guns
 3. **A**sk about the presence of guns in other homes
 4. **R**ecognize the role of guns in suicide
 5. **T**ell your peers to be SMART
 - A discussion was brought up by Robin in doing the presentation to the school committee. Melanie supported the idea and Robin will do a letter to the school regarding doing a presentation once school is in session.
 - Michael Nelson inquired if there were any studies done on why folks do not secure their guns. Barbara responded that she did have any statistics but gave the reasoning that folks do not think things through and or lack the knowledge.
- Update on Intermunicipal Grant
 - Contract Tracing grant has allowed us to have Robin Neipp, RN and Jack Sullivan Epidemiologist report out on all things COVID-19 related.
- Update on Intermunicipal Health Agent Grant
 - There are 6 towns that are participating in this grant they are as follows: Shutesbury, Leverett, Sunderland, Deerfield, Greenfield and Montague. This will allow towns to have coverage of a Health Agent and Nurse when and if needed.

New Business:

- Sharps Disposal Program
 - Cheryl Volpe RN, BSN Public Health Nurse Town of Montague and Anne Stuart are working together on an exposure control plan for the handling of the biohazardous waste (Sharps) for the town. If there is a medical director, then a vaccine program can be instituted and brought to the public and town departments.
- Tiara Fisher – Coordinator HEALing Communities
 - Tiara Fisher will do a presentation at the September BOH meeting. Tiara will be presenting on the HEALing Communities Study led by Boston Medical Center and locally implemented by the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin region.
- Opioid Settlement Payment
 - Rachel Stoler inquired about the opioid settlement payments and the funding municipalities will receive. Steve Ellis responded that a total amount of \$61, 272 will be disbursed to the town between the years of 2022 and 2038. The DOR will have strict guidelines and will dictate how these funds will be used by municipalities.
- Monkey Pox
 - The BOH will discuss Monkey Pox prevention messaging in the future.

Other items not anticipated:

- Melanie Ames Zamojski , Daniel and Anne met with the schools to discuss the fall plan regarding COVID-19 protocols. It was announced by the CDC earlier in the week that there will be no testing, no sick testing, and no masking requirements in schools for the school year. In speaking with all those involved the schools are all on the same page and will follow the CDC guidelines that have been set forth for the school year.
 - Melissa Bednarski, Nurse said that they have test kits that will last through September and might be able to get some more if needed.
 - FCTS and Rick Martin are keeping the extra staff that was hired during the pandemic to address the school needs – a LPN nurse and extra maintenance worker.
 - Melanie stated she is attending vaccination meetings and feels that the home school population is at risk for infections of COVID-19, TB and Polio given that Franklin County has a low inoculation rate and if you are home schooled event lower rate.
 - Jack Sullivan will report out on any wastewater testing done regarding COVID-19
 - To continue to educate the public on issues surrounding public health, the idea of setting up a table at the Great Falls Festival was suggested. Michael Nelson as organizer of the event said he could give us the same space as last year. The event runs from 12noon to 8PM and Daniel said he can set up at tent, table and chairs to be manned by others.

Meeting adjourned: 6:16 PM

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

Zamojski – Aye Stoler – Aye

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Documents:

BOH Minutes

Directors Report

Nurse Report

Animal & Barn Inspector Report

Be SMART handout