

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 – 5:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Present: Rachel Stoler & Michael Nelson

Other: Gina McNeely- Health Director & Interim Acting Health Director for Montague

Guest: Judith Lorei and Mary Kay Mattiace – Highland Cemetery Committee

Michael Nelson opened the meeting at 5:01 PM

December 21, 2022 Minutes

- The Board of Health members reviewed the minutes.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the December 21, 2022 minutes as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

Nelson – Aye, Stoler - Aye

Directors Report:

- Gina McNeely gave an overview of the work done by her.
 - Housing Inspections
 - 87 Fourth Street – Tenant called regarding a sewer leak. Gina asked to have combination locks on the box so if access is needed it can be gained.
 - 3rd and 4th Street Alley – Lots of trash and debris on the fire escape and alley way. Gina will call property owner Chris Janke
 - Perc Test with Alan Weiss
 - 515 Turners Falls Road It is new construction – addition to a home so they must follow the standards for new construction.
 - 409 Old Greenfield Road
 - Working on the Combined Sewer Overflow project for the Board of Health portion.
 - Dumping
 - Jarvis Pool/Scotty’s pick-up box for clothing has been continuously used for a dumping of all sorts of household items. Gina will follow up with the property owner and the dumpster company.
 - We have no report given from Jen but will request for February.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the Director’s report as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

Nelson – Aye, Stoler- Aye

Nurse Report:

- Gina gave an overview of Cheryl Volpe, Public Health Nurse and her work which continues to be disease surveillance through the state system - MAVEN and is following some cases along with preparing for the UMASS students this spring.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the Nurse Report as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson **Motion passes.**

Nelson – Aye, Stoler- Aye

Animal/Barn Inspector Reports November and December:

- The has been no quarantines in December.
- The state (Ashley Kraft from MDAR) was asked about sharing quarantine information with Board members and there was a question at last month’s BOH meeting for more detailed information regarding quarantines. The response from MDAR is that all that information is confidential and not public information. Quarantine records are only for the owner, inspector and MDAR.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the Animal and Barn Inspector Reports as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson **Motion passes.**

Fee Schedule:

- The BOH reviewed the fee schedule with only one change being that of an increase in the category of: Perc Test Witness fees.
- Gina added she would like a new line item added as Perc Test New Construction to \$250.00 and a witness fee for a Perc Test Repair at \$200.00

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the fee schedule change as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson **Motion passes.**

Nelson – Aye, Stoler- Aye

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to revoke the previous motion and, in its place, add the request by Gina to add a line item for Perc Test New Construction at \$250 and make the Perc Test Repair at \$200. Seconded by Michael Nelson **Motion passes.**

Nelson – Aye, Stoler- Aye

Montague Cemetery Commission:

- Judith and Mary Kay gave an overview to the Board of Health members letting them know that the cemetery commission has been active and busy with apprenticing with the past Highland Cemetery Board to learn about the cemetery’s history and mapping procedures.
- It was voted at town meeting in 2021 to acquire Highland Cemetery (formed in 1925) as a public town owned cemetery. This was seen as a great opportunity to have a place for town residents to be buried, but also for a green burial site. There were 14 burials in 2023. Town cemeteries are closed December 1 to April 1.
- There has been initial clearing and site work done. In the spring there is hope that plots will be done so that folks can purchase a lot in the first phase area of the site.
- The Franklin County Tech school is rebuilding the archway/entrance for the cemetery and a wildflower garden and tree planting will begin in spring to enhance the overall site.
- The Cemetery Commission will expand from 3 to 5 people in the future.
- There is a thought that a friends committee might be formed to be advocates for the cemetery.

- FY2024 there will be a new caretaker position for Highland Cemetery which is over 7 acres as Michael Fleming will be step away from the position after 20 years.
- Aaron Clark is looking in the future to have the Town Cemetery Commission take it over. Currently it is currently private, and the expenses are taken on by a volunteer committee and volunteer board.
- The yearly budget is \$12,000 that includes Spring and Fall clean up and mowing/general maintenance. Plots are \$550.00 in the conventional section of the cemetery and goes into the general fund of the Town of Montague.

Update Health Director Search:

- Michael gave an overview of the search and the newest search for Health Director with the due date of January 9, 2023.
- Michael and Steve reviewed the candidates and reached out to a candidate that they thought they would interview with the rest of the committee.

Unanticipated Health Director Position:

- Rachel brought up the discussion from last time regarding sharing a Health Director with Greenfield and then using the grant to fund a Health Inspector position. Is this still a possibility or is the shared Director piece still on the table?
- Michael said to wait until after this round of interviews and then if we have to pivot to other options that might be a topic for the search committee.

Meeting adjourned: 5:34 PM

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

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Documents:

Minutes

Directors Report

Nurse Report

Animal/Barn Inspector Report

Email from MDAR

Fee Schedule