

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is by Zoom
Monday, January 10, 2022

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Matt Lord; Town Administrator Steve Ellis; Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz; Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk; Board of Health members Al Cummings, Melanie Zamojski, and Michael Nelson; Town Planner Walter Ramsey; and Wild Child Cellars owner Curt Sherrer.

VIMEO MEETING LINK: <https://vimeo.com/664781409>

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken.

Board of Health Chair opens the meeting and roll call taken.

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

None

Approve minutes of December 20, 2021 and January 3, 2022

Boutwell makes the motion to approve the minutes of December 20, 2021 and January 3, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

COVID-19 Updates

Welcome to Robin Neipp as Contract Tracing Nurse for the Collaborative Grant

- Neipp introduces herself and summarizes her background.
- Wasiuk will post her contact information on the BOH website.
- Neipp explains her procedure for reaching out to the public.
- In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Neipp states that her list of cases comes from MAVEN.
- In response to a question by Singleton, Ellis explains that the CARES Act is funding Contract Tracing hours.

Other (not on agenda)

- With regard to epidemiologic support, Zamojski explains that last week the job description was approved and the application process was put forward. The position will likely be filled by the end of the month.
- In response to a question by Jeff Singleton, Nelson shares his opinion that having these discussions with both the Selectboard and the Board of Health at the same time is a good way for the entire public entity that is responding to the pandemic to unilaterally have these conversations and make sure we end up on the same page.
- Kuklewicz states he would like the BOH to be present at the weekly Selectboard meetings.

Review of COVID case counts and trends

- Case counts are as follows: from January 2 to 8 equals 165; from December 26, 2021 to January 8 equals 249; from March 1, 2020 to January 8, 2022 equals 970. Percentage of all individuals fully vaccinated in Montague equals 64%, individuals with at least one dose equals 74%. Of the 165 cases in the past week, the vaccination breakdown is as follows: fully vaccinated, 70; partially vaccinated, 7; not vaccinated, 88. The age group breakdown is as follows: 18-35 equals 53, 36-49 equals 35, 60-64 equals 22, 65-80 equals 10, 81+ equals 1, and 17 and under equals 44.
- Wasiuk reiterates that anyone who is sick should stay at home because of the rapid spread.
- Zamojski states that arrangements have been made for the vaccination buses to make another round for the Franklin County towns.
- Lord asks Zamojski to share the dates of the vaccination buses with the Gill-Montague schools.

Update on Test Kit Ordering (Selectboard)

- Ellis reports that we were able to secure 1,000 test kits at \$18.47 per unit. We are expecting them to arrive potentially as soon as Thursday.
- The kits will be provided to the TF Fire District, the Water District, and the Montague Center Fire District, and any other districts that serve Montague residents.
- Wasiuk states that the BOH only has 130 test kits to give to the public.
- We are estimating that a three-month set-aside would be in the vicinity of 600 kits.

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- Ellis states that there are still 90 in reserve for Town employees that can be added to Wasiuk's supply.
- Ellis shares that there is a free testing center at Greenfield Community College.

Nelson makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Zamojski, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Zamojski - Aye, Cummings - Aye

Caitlin Kelly, Library Director

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions to be submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities, \$9,216.00

Kelly reports that she is working on a grant that is due this week to help in our preservation of our local history and artwork collection. The grant would pay to have a consultant help us with organizing our collection, and also pay for some furniture that can be used to hold paintings.

Walter Ramsey, Town Planner

Execute professional services agreement with FRCOG for Montague Comprehensive Plan Phase I: Community Visioning and Scenario Planning. Contract amount \$33,000 funded by a EOEEA FY23 Planning Grant

Boutwell makes the motion for the Board to sign and execute the professional services agreement with FRCOG for Montague Comprehensive Plan Phase I: Community Visioning and Scenario Planning. Contract amount \$33,000 funded by a EOEEA FY23 Planning Grant. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Burn Dump Capping Project close-out actions

- The capping portion for the Burn Dump is winding down.
- During a final walkthrough, Mass DEP identified several items that need to be finished before they issue the final close-out permits (Correction Active Design and Post-Closure User).
- The items DEP identified are the following: (1) erosion at the northeast corner, (2) erosion at the southern end at the bottom of the slope, and (3) groundwater coming from the array bursting through the geo-textile fabric and causing an artesian-well effect.
- Ramsey will be coming to the Board in the near future with a proposal for further engineering services.

Review response from Trinity Health New England regarding Farren Care Center

Ellis summarizes the email from Trinity. With regard to the building assessments, Trinity claims that they are proprietary to Trinity Health and they will not be sharing them. They are willing to share some summary details with the Town, which they provided in writing. They believe their team's processes were thorough and in keeping with industry standards.

Discussion:

- Kuklewicz feels that he should reach out to management of Trinity to tell them that we had expected a more comprehensive review.
- Kuklewicz states his biggest concern is what happens to the building, what happens to the site, and what the impact will be on its inhabitants.
- Lord recommends that any further communication with Trinity be tabled until we determine what the community wants out of this.
- Lilith Wolinsky states she feels that Trinity may be in breach of a contract that they had engaged in with the Town. Her goal is to have the old part of the building be considered for reuse. She would like Trinity to come to a community meeting.
- Ellis feels that if we have a community conversation, we need to know what we are asking. What do we want to do if (1) there was nothing on the site, (2) if we could save the building, (3) if we keep just the old part of the building, (4) if we keep all the building?
- Ramsey is asked to provide a list of agenda items for the community conversation.
- Wolinsky asks if the Town can do its own redevelopment study.
- Ariel Elan brings up a Recorder article from 2018 saying that at that time Trinity had been turned down for a \$30 million grant/loan to renovate the Farren. She is wondering if the documentation could be forthcoming.

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Winter Town Meeting

Open March 3, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant

- The final warrant needs to be signed by February 14. The Article deadline is February 10.
- Kuklewicz asks Ellis to prepare a draft outlining the Articles for the Special Town Meeting.

Executive Assistant Business

Execute 2022 Renewal Certification to ABCC

- Bogusz states that a renewal certificate cannot be issued to Wild Child Cellars until we have received their certificate of inspection.
- The Building Department cannot issue the certificate of inspection to them until they are in compliance with building, fire, and health codes, and all applicable State codes as well.
- Sherrer expresses confusion regarding his pouring license being pulled due to these issues.
- Bogusz and Ellis instruct Sherrer to contact the Building Inspector to discuss this.
- Ellis and Kuklewicz assure Sherrer that they would like to see his business get up and running.

Town Administrator's Business

Execute Colle Building Lease (3 Year Term)

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Colle Building Lease (3 Year Term). Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Execute Agreement with Sullivan & Sullivan Auctions

Boutwell makes the motion to execute the Agreement with Sullivan & Sullivan and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the document. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Mass DOT notice regarding future 5th Street and White Bridge Replacement Plan

Ellis states that the Commonwealth has found a project to sink about \$45 million into at some point in the future. He will be having a conversation with DOT involving the replacement of the White Bridge as well as the Green Bridge.

US Treasury adopts final rule implementing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) Program under the American Rescue Plan

- The US Treasury has issued a 457-page document of the final rule implementing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. It appears that there may be some additional flexibility, but also some new specificity to other rules.
- Ellis suggests postponing the public conversation regarding ARPA funding for a couple of weeks.
- Ellis states that we will need to attend to Federal procurement rules as we consider all forward-moving investments.

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting

None

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye