

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 – 5:00 PM
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Present:, Melanie Ames-Zamojski, Rachel Stoler & Michael Nelson (5:04 PM)

Other: Gina McNeely- Interim Acting Health Director for Montague, Anne Stuart – Health Clerk

Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:03 PM

February 8, 2023 Minutes

- The Board of Health members reviewed the minutes.

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to approve the February 8, 2023 minutes as presented. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.**

Zamojski – Aye Nelson – Aye, Stoler - Aye

February 13, 2023 Minutes

- The Board of Health members reviewed the minutes.

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to approve the February 13, 2023 minutes as presented. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.**

Zamojski – Aye Nelson – Aye, Stoler – Abstained

February 15, 2023 Minutes

- The Board of Health members reviewed the minutes.

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to approve the February 15, 2023 minutes as presented. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.**

Zamojski – Aye Nelson – Aye, Stoler - Aye

Directors Report:

- Gina McNeely gave an overview of the work done by her.
 - Housing Inspections
 - 15 Park Street – Gina did a reinspection of this property and found new violations which led to a new OTC being issued to the landlord. After the reinspection, the property owner and tenant went to court and the tenant was going to move out. If this is the case, Gina will meet with Willie Cosby and have him sign a no occupancy agreement till all corrections have been made.
 - 11 Meadow Road – Gina did an initial inspection and has a reinspection scheduled for March 13 to follow up with complaints including items tires and junk cars strewn around the property along with a camping trailer parked near the sawmill river.

- Title 5
 - Gina and Anne worked together to get Edward Stone his Installers License for 2023.
- Food
 - Reviewed the plans of an ice cream shop located in a storage trailer on Third Street. Unfortunately, after discussions with the applicant Gina let the applicant know that this proposed plan would not work due to the Massachusetts Food Code.

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

Zamojski – Aye, 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 currently hosting the UMASS School of Nursing students weekly who are working on a community resource guide for our town residents.
- Gina will be reaching out to Jennifer regarding Dr. Lepore coming on as Montague's Medical Director and having him sign the necessary paperwork and process the one-time stipend from the BOH budget.

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

Zamojski – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Stoler- Aye

Animal/Barn Inspector Reports February:

- The had been two quarantines in February.

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

Zamojski – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Stoler- Aye

Discussion Health Department (Health Department Chp. 111 Section 26A) vs. Board of Health (Chapter 111 Section 26-32):

- Gina gave an overview of the differences between the two. Some of the main differences are noted below.
- Health Departments are usually in cities and must include a physician sitting on the board.
- Health Departments in cities have their members appointed and can be a very political appointment.
- Board of Health Departments in towns have elections of their members and have the power to appoint Health Agents and other positions.
- Board of Health Departments function autonomously.

Discussion Have items available for public use:

- Have available for public use Narcan, Plan B, Pregnancy tests, birth control items, menstrual kits.
- Melanie and Rachel were in favor of having items available and Gina will follow up with Steve regarding this.

Discussion Board of Health representation for Public Health Excellence Grant Meetings:

- There are many grants with other towns out there where members of our Board or Health Director should be involved:
 - Agent – Greenfield, Montague, Sunderland, Deerfield, Shutesbury and Leverett
 - Public Health Nursing – Greenfield, Montague, Deerfield & Sunderland
 - Opioid – Rachel said money is coming in bits and can wait to decide. Gina will try and attend or Rachel.
 - Mass & Motion

Discussion Homelessness:

- A letter went to the Selectboard regarding folks being displaced at the end of 3rd Street – (possibility under the footbridge) according to Steve Ellis where there was a homeless encampment.
- Melanie states if the Board of Health steps in it won't be a sympathetic action and as long as things are staying under control she is fine having the board stay out of the situation.
- What we can do is compile a list of resources including food pantries, community meal sites with addresses and phone numbers for the homeless population.

Meeting adjourned: 6:02 PM

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

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Documents:

Minutes

Directors Report

Nurse Report

Animal/Barn Inspector Report