



BOARD OF HEALTH

7 MAIN STREET, Unit #2
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July 25, 2023 Minutes for Hubbardston Board of Health

Meeting time: 700 pm

Meeting location: Slade Building, 7 Main St., Hubbardston, MA

- 1) Call to order at 7:07 pm. This meeting is broadcast and recorded live.
 - a. Attendees:
 - i. Cathy Hansgate, Chair
 - ii. Judie O'Donnell
 - iii. Laurie DeMalia
 - iv. Nancy Perron (for minutes)
 - v. Liz Putelis – absent
 - vi. Cathy noted there are three members present which gives BOH a quorum
- 2) Review and approval of 7/11/2023 meeting minutes
 - a. Laurie motions to approve minutes as written with no corrections
 - b. All in favor
- 3) Covid 19/Flu/Maven update – Judie has updates as follows:
 - a. RSV, there is an article written for July 21st in MMWR, which Judie recommends looking at. Judie will try to find it. They are recommending residence 60+ get the RSV vaccine but there will be restrictions on this. Because the data is new, they are recommending those most at risk for pneumonia or other complications should receive the vaccine but those residence that are healthy should speak with their own physician on recommendation for vaccine. They do not have costs for Covid or RSV so could not give data on that information. There is a table on the vaccine page at Mass.gov “Adult Availability Table”.
 - b. Mass BOH Association will have a webinar on August 22nd at 3:00 pm regarding conflict-of-interest law, focusing specifically on septic regulations. The last training, CD updates on Covid, etc. were December, 2022. They are six months out of date.
 - c. Testing was done for WNV and EEE. Of the 3,300 samples tested, only 5 tested for WNV and 0 tested for EEE. Those positive tests were on the boarder of NH. Nothing in our area.
 - d. Montachusett Opportunity Council (MOC) will run centers in Devens and Concord to help house families. Devens will be more of an emergency center for those without children. Rita Jane St. Pierre is the Director of Concord and Coby (?) is the Director of Devens. Laurie had concerns regarding funding and if communities will get funding reimbursement for increased needs. Judie states they will not.
 - e. Maven meeting will be held on August 27th. The meetings will be bi-weekly to include the Dept of Public Health and Dept of Epidemiology. At the meeting, they spoke about migrant issues in Massachusetts including Family Welcome Centers and several emergency centers for rapid assistance. The average stay of a family is 15 months to get them settled in an apartment. There will be a new family center opening, but they did not specify where. They are spreading across the state. These centers will help with school enrollment, vaccines, medical appointments, pediatrician appointments, etc. What can BOH do? If the center in a community offers community services, we should be aware of the services we have in our area. We need to support vaccination efforts. Be aware of what regional support may be able to access.
 - f. Covid 19 – Massachusetts will have Covid 19 vaccinations available. Pfizer, etc. are working to develop formula to be current. The vaccines will ship mid to late September. In Massachusetts, adult flu and/or adult covid will not be offered for free. If 19 + with insurance card, people will be

- encouraged to go to a clinic or pharmacy. If 19+ without insurance card, free Covid 19 will be available. Vaccines will be free to children under 18. If we offer, we will have to figure out how to pay for the vaccines; possibly work with Community Health Connections.
- 4) Title V Reports/Perc Tests
 - a. 27 Natty Brook Road – Title 5
 - b. 7 Mayo Road – Title 5
 - c. 27 Mayo Road – Perc test
 - d. 174 Williamsville Road – Perc test
 - e. 28 Old Westminster Road - Failed
 - 5) Water Tests/Well completion forms
 - a. DCR Central Region water reports for 7/12/23, 7/14/23, 7/19/23 & 7/21/23
 - b. 46 Healdville Road – Water test
 - c. 46 Healdville Road – Well Completion report
 - i. Cathy motions to accept with notes written on septic plan stating “we are not confirming that all requirements for system were met” due to the fact the revised plans were not brought to BOH for review. All in favor
 - d. 7 New Templeton Road – Well Completion report
 - e. 94 Ragged Hill Road – Well Completion report (Draft)
 - f. Cushman Pond test results for 7/19/23
 - 6) Waste Water Tests - None
 - 7) Permits to be voted on/signed
 - a. Sugar High Baked Goods – approved at July 11th meeting, but needed correct form to sign
 - b. Francis Allain – Installer Permit approved
 - 8) Open septic plans/Engineering plans review
 - 9) Sheds/Pool/Garages approved by Phil Leger - None
 - 10) Old Business:
 - a. Nursing position – Town had voted to create this position quite a while back. TA is looking for job description. This will be an hourly position. Originally, this position was paid out of Holden Funds. Funds were distributed as 80% to Fire and 20% to BOH. It is a trust and only the interest is being spent. Hubbardston is not the only town to receive the funds. When accounting system changed, funds disappeared. Laurie asked who gets the report for the trust? Somebody knows who gets the funds, someone then passes the funds to the accounts. If we do not receive Holden Funds, how do we pay for health nurse? Judie says, it handicaps us without the Holden Funds, keeping the BOH from starting initiatives. Cathy suggests the job description that the TA sent from Stoneham is very appropriate and defined. It is very well written except for the knowledge area. Maven comes under the knowledge area. That is the area that needs to be edited. The position is per diem, up to 16 hours/month at \$45.00/hour. If no hours are worked, there would be no payment. The first \$1,000 will be paid from the funds which would have paid for a Maven nurse. The additional funds would come from the BOH revolving account. Judie would like to put a hold on the job description and table until second meeting in August (August 22). Budget year would be 2023-2024 – email sent to Danielle DiBenedetto on 8/3/23
 - 11) New Business
 - a. Notification of possible rabies exposure – dog to dog – e-mail sent to animal control
 - b. E-mail notification from Kristofer Munroe regarding Lead Cables in the Town of Hubbardston – Cathy suggests the Planning Board write a letter and the BOH will review before it goes out.
 - c. 5 Navajo Street – Septic and Building permits on hold – Nitrogen load because of smaller lots. Bill Homans is on Planning Board and Chair of Pinecrest. Waiting for input from Bill.
 - d. Unexpected subjects
 - i. Judie asked what our decision was for a Worcester State worker? Cathy suggested he/she could do office work and in the fall he/she could help with food inspections for experience. This will not be a paid position; student can get college credit for work. Judie will check.
 - ii. Heat preparedness – Watch weather and be prepared. Judie suggests BOH needs plan in place. Cathy suggested the following
 1. Contact Superintendent to open Center School. Have popsicles, cold water and games/activities
 2. EMD has several fans that can be given to someone in need

3. If Senior Center is open – a source for seniors to cool off. Senior Center would be open to seniors, not general public.

12) Complaints

- a. 248 Gardner Road remains open
- b. 91 Hale Road remains open
- c. 50 Dogwood Road North update – Cathy visited property, took photos. The odor is coming from a horse corral that is extremely wet. The horse does have a dry stall, but the corral is completely shaded and wet. E-mail sent to Animal Control on 7/27/23
- d. 124 Barre Road update – need update from Animal Control – E-mail sent to Animal Control on 7/26/23
- e. 18 Cross Road update – unpermitted garage, old cars, debris, digging driveway near property of 20 Cross Road – To be closed after Cathy's report is written
- f. 7 Ragged Hill Road – Anonymous written complaint regarding the state of the property
 - i. Letter needs to be written requesting property owner clean up the yard because of potential mosquito and rodent issues
 - ii. Cathy has asked police to put together a list of similar properties (as they drive all over town) so the BOH can possibly obtain state funds to help with cleanup.

11) Turnovers/Warrants for approval/Financial Reports

- a. W 3 – Signed by members
- b. Letter to No Coast Kitchen for returned check in amount of \$20.00 – received corrected payment
- c. Letter to Howe's Country Store for returned check in amount of \$30.00

12) Next meeting date (Tuesday, August 8 at 7:00 pm meeting in Slade Building)

13) Adjournment at 8:57 pm – All in favor