

Charlemont Board of Health Minutes
BOH Minutes February 24, 2021
Conference call

Present: Doug Telling, Rob Lingle, Bill Harker
Absent: None
Guest: Lisa Danek Burke

Called to order at 6:00 pm

--Telling moved and Harker seconded a motion to approve the minutes of January 27, 2021.
Passed 3-0

--Danek Burke provided the health agent report. She and Randy Crochier are now involved in contact tracing. Telling reported that Mohawk has a clinic today and Saturday 2/27. Both full. Danek Burk reported she conducted two perc tests and both passed.

--Danek Burke asked if anyone had COVID questions. Harker asked about those without internet. Danek Burke responded they should contact Lifepath and the John Zon Community Center. Telling added that the Northampton senior center also had a phone sign up. Lingle asked about local “mop up” clinics (those with smaller numbers); Telling did not think these are possible. Lingle suggested that Robocalls include a request to help neighbors and friends who need help. Lingle noted that the South African variant is 16x more transmissible and stressed the need to continue wearing masks.

--48 Potters Rd. Ext. the percs were from the 1990’s and new ones were conducted, and a revised plan, dated 11/10/2020, was submitted. The plans show two unattached building, which is a zoning issue, and three buildings with sewer lines. Danek Burke reviewed the revised plan with the Board, detailing multiple areas where the plan is not in compliance with the Title 5 regulation and other state guidelines & approvals. can/should review. Telling thought this raises two issues. First, is there a need for additional fees and the amount of time taken to review them. Second given that this happens often, does the town need to consider banning him from working within the town. Danek Burke said there have been plans by this engineer which required multiple reviews and an additional fee was collected. She suggested that we might want to send the plans to DEP for them to evaluate the work. All members thought this is a good idea.

--Senate Bill 2446: Danek Burke reported on this bill, which has been signed into law. It requires boards of health to present any regulations regarding agriculture to a town agriculture commission for review. Charlemont does not have such a commission.

--Question of what to do about wells adjacent to 176 Main St. property. Some of the neighbors have been concerned about the waste at the site possibly contaminating their wells. Lingle brought up the well at Cold River which was approved as a public water supply even though it lacked the proper setbacks. He noted that there was a history of clean tests and that the type of well going into granite contains a lot of pressure making it unlikely that pollution will come from

the top down, but more likely would work its way through the granite from uphill. He also stated that this is a zoning issue, not one that the Board can solve. Harker noted that wells and their 100' zone are Board issues. Harker and Lingle debated the pressure argument. Telling saw three possible paths for the Board: 1st, identify the area in the 176 property that fell within the 100' zone and bar farm activity within it; 2nd have the owner test all the wells; and 3rd recommend to adjacent property owners that if they are concerned that they test their own wells and bring results of a failure to the Board. Lingle moved and Harker seconded a motion that those concerned about their wells should have the wells tested at a state certified lab for drinking water standards and report any problems to the Board. Passed 3-0.

--Telling noted that a new shot to prevent Lyme disease is in the works. No time frame for adoption.

--Danek Burke asked if we are still interested in a map of the 100' well zones? Telling: no.

--Danek Burke recommended that the King and Harden properties restart their septic repair process given how old the data is.

--Danek Burke reported a septic failure at 245 Main St. Failed in 2019.

--Lingle thanked Danek Burke for all that she does for the town and district.

Telling moved and Harker seconded a motion to adjourn seconded by Harker. Passed 3-0

Adjourned at 7:20 pm

These minutes are not official until signed.

Documents Reviewed

2/24/21

- Agenda 2/24
- Minutes 1/27/21
- S. Bill 2446