

Charlemont Board of Health Minutes

July 27, 2022

Zoom

Present: Doug Telling, Mae Tanner, Rob Lingle

Absent: none

Guests: Kurt Schellenberg

Called to order at 6:12 pm

--Telling moved and Lingle seconded a motion to approve minutes of 5/25/22. Telling yes, Tanner yes Lingle yes

--Lingle moved to nominate Telling as representative to CPHS oversight board and Tanner as alternate. Telling seconded. Telling yes, Lingle yes Tanner yes

--Telling moved that Telling and Lingle serve as co-chairs. Telling yes Lingle yes Tanner yes

--Telling recommended that Tanner track with health agents during inspections to see the work "on the ground."

Rental pre-inspection

--Lingle noted that CPHS has discussed this in the past and believes it is best that landlords address the issue.

--Schellenberg noted that the program would have helped with assessing and identifying blame during a recent inspection.

--Lingle thinks it a good idea to have a registry of apartments, evidence to take to court, and reiterated that the relevant actors need to weigh in on it.

--Telling said that the experience related by the Williamstown inspector found that the quality of the apartments improved, it helped in court, and in some cases, rents increased because the apartments were improved.

--Schellenberg said that Greenfield is looking at this program and suggested letting them do the initial heavy lifting. He liked the fee structure in Williamstown.

--Telling concluded that the board is receptive and would like to see how it goes in Greenfield before pursuing it locally.

--Lingle noted that pre-rental inspections had worked for 122 Main St. (The Block).

--Telling queried about how to distribute the N-95 masks. He noted that Dana will have access to them for the ambulance. Telling wondered about distributing them at the Good Neighbors food distribution.

--consensus reached was that we should make them available as needed.

--There is a vaccine clinic coming up at Mohawk on August 4.

Technical Assistance Grants (TAG)

--Lingle wondered if they could be used for a study of environmental impacts of the cars at Stagecoach.

--Schellenberg suggested testing near-by wells for PFAS. Maybe the DEP testing program can get involved.

--Telling and Tanner will look to see if this funding is appropriate for such a project.

Testing Sewage for COVID

--Telling said he has spoken to someone at DPH who is involved in the project, and she was supportive but worried that the sample will be too small. He spoke to one of the sewer commissioners who is interested in it. He will see if it is possible to work with the Shelburne Falls sewer district to increase the numbers.

--Telling asked DPH if there are plans to expand testing to include other topics, such as opioids. None at present, she did not rule it out in the future.

--consensus of the board is that we are receptive to joining the program if we are allowed.

Health Agent Report

--High demand for perc tests

--Arbovirus reports show three mosquitoes positive for West Nile Virus in the state

--Camp inspections are in process.

--Two new VRBO's trying to get registered.

--A new wedding venue on Burrington Road wants to become a BnB, but the number of bedrooms exceeds the septic system's capacity. They have not taken out any building permits to construct new bedrooms.

--Red Rose is permitted but the pool is not, at this time.

--Red Door has not been inspected.

Newsletter

--Tanner noted that each month Maureen O'Reilly of FRCOG sends good information for the newsletter. Tanner is looking for ideas for the next newsletter. This month O'Reilly's piece is on healthy eating. Some suggestions: the food program for kids at Hawlemont and the schedule of vaccine clinics. She noted that she is working with Town Administrator Sarah Reynolds on the

email delivery system. Telling suggested including the link to order test kits from the Federal government and noting the dates for Good Neighbors.

--Telling reported that the complaint on an open dumpster was resolved.

Telling moved to adjourn and Tanner seconded. Telling yes Lingle yes Tanner yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

These minutes are not official until signed.

Documents Reviewed 7/27/22

- Agenda 7/27/22
- Minutes 5/25/22