

Charlemont Board of Health Minutes

January 28, 2024

Zoom

Present: Doug Telling, Rob Lingle, Star Atkeson - secretary

Guests: Randy Crochier, Kurt Schellenberg, Dennis Annear, Jasmine Ward, Benjamin Ariel, Jonathan Mirin, Godelieve Ricard, Pam Wallace, Barbara Colombo, Kurt Chamberlain, Madison Schofield, Travis DeCere, Felicia Ariel

Called to order at 6 pm

Discussion Items:

1. 1741 Rte 2 (Oxbow), discussion and possible vote on housing order

T.DeCere, owner of Oxbow Inn, updated the Board of Health, and Dennis Annear, of his progress addressing the many violations at the Oxbow Inn. Many residents and a staff member gave positive and heart felt testimonials about the project and DeCere's efforts. He would like to work quickly in order to keep the occupants in place.

DeCere was told that an accessible emergency contact number needs to be displayed in the front window.

DeCere said a public water supply has been applied for. Septic repair will follow, barring a massive snowstorm, they should be able to comply within the required 30 days. A communal kitchen has been provided to the residents and cleaned weekly by a staff member. Lead remediation and follow up testing will be done in one of the units.

DeCere requested 90 days to figure out his timeline for electrical updates, depending on the date that National Grid gives him.

Fire Chief wants to know the what the certificate of inspection was given to property by building inspector. DeCere said the hope is to classify it as Single Room Occupancy because of need for housing. If that's not possible, he will move back to motel model. Dennis said it may be an R-1 or R-2.

Randy confirmed that the place does not meet minimum standards to operate as a residence. Randy said adding the communal kitchen changes the classification. The kitchen has not been permitted as a commercial space. A decision needs to be made based on code, the kitchen needs to be included.

They spoke about the space heaters, they attempted to make a safe choice and each one is plugged into a 20 amp circuit so there is no overload. It is possible to mount them. The occupants are warm, but the space heaters are not an acceptable long-term solution.

They spoke about Septic Installers, Roddy and Sons are good. Crochier said they need an installers permit and need to pull a construction permit for each system.

DeCere was told to call the building inspector J.Gougeon. They plan to make a date early in February. Randy is comfortable waiting to hear and setting a date and time certain, suggested within the 14-day window.

2. 176 Main Street Inspection update

J. Ward has the update on 176 Main Street. It is under corrective order and has not exceeded the timeline. As Animal inspector, R.Lingle will visit 8 Mountain Road.

Action Items:

1. Board of Health FY26 Budget request

Telling motioned to level fund the Board of Health Budget. Lingle seconded the motion. Lingle—yes, Telling—yes

2. **FRCOG CPHS Health District Inter-Municipal Agreement renewal

Telling motioned to sign the intermunicipal Agreement renewal. Lingle seconded the motion. Lingle—yes, Telling—yes.

They will print and sign it at Town Hall.

3. Jonathan Mirin follow up **to discuss Disability accommodation request re: National Grid proposal for Avery Brook Rd. Guest expert Kent Chamberlin PhD invited to attend.

Jonathan Mirin explained his situation regarding the National Grid pole replacement project. His wife has Electromagnetic Radiation Syndrome. Expert Kent Chamberlin spoke to the board about the harmful effects of non-ionizing radiation. After a good amount of debate and questions being answered, Rob Lingle agreed that the BOH would grant Jonathan Mirin a letter of support to ask National Grid to use their own fiber to connect to Mirin's House and Barn at 224 Avery Brook Rd. instead of eventually using a smart meter to collect the electrical usage data. Rob Lingle asked if it was something that would eventually find its way into a bylaw. He said that if there was an inkling that something is harmful then it is better to be proactive. Mirin and the other advocates spoke more in length to Lingle about the issue.

Doug Telling made a motion to support the request that the transmitters planned for the new poles in front of 224 Avery Brook Rd be replaced by fiber optic cable and that National Grid's fiber optic cable connect to the house to record the data from the electrical meter. Rob Lingle seconded the motion. Lingle — Yes; Telling — Yes.

4. District Local Technical Assistance Project Requests

Of the options provided by the FRCOG for technical assistance the BOH chose 1) Fire and Evacuation Route, 2) Regional sheltering heating and cooling 3) Public Info warning System and 4) Mapping Flood prone Areas.

5. Review /Approve Minutes October 23, 2024 and December 10, 2024

Lingle motioned to approve both sets of Minutes. Telling seconded the motion. Lingle —yes, Telling —yes

Telling Motioned to adjourn at 8:38, Lingle seconded the motion. Telling—Yes, Lingle—Yes

These minutes are not official until signed.

Documents Reviewed

- Agenda 1/28/2025
- Minutes 10/28/2024, 12/10/2024
- Findings of the New Hampshire Commission on Wireless Radiation December 10, 2024 Presented To: The Charlemont, MA Board of Health, 55 slides.