

Charlemont Board of Health Minutes

May 20, 2025

Zoom

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

Guests: Kurt Schellenberg, Jasmine Ward

Telling opened the meeting at 6:00

Discussion Items:

Action:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 4/22/2025

Randall made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. Telling seconded the motion. Telling—yes; Lingle—yes; Randall—yes.

Discussion:

1. Oxbow Inspection Update

J. Ward and R.Crochier went to re-inspect the Oxbow on May 14th. Small concerns were addressed. The kitchen facility was not addressed. There was an active maintenance crew. There was some question about how many people could be allowed per square footage, per unit.

2. Lithium presentation report

K. Schellenberg and J.Ward attended the presentation for firemen showing high damage and low probability for lithium battery fires. MAHB lawyer is working on BOH response to big battery systems. Videos were shown of big fires starting and no time to get out of the room.

**unforeseen in the last 48 hours: Beaver dam on East Hawley Road, Howard Krusz is dealing with a flooded hayfield. Beavers can affect septic systems. The beaver should get trapped during beaver season, November- April. An owner can no longer kill the beaver and destroy dam; a certified trapper needs to come in. Emergency permitting can be granted if a causeway is flooded; a trapper can get a permit to come in.

BOH has authority with trapping and removal of beaver, but landowner should work with Conservation commission on the dam. Jasmine will go inspect the beaver dam to see how much land is being affected. Thunder Lane is on the left and the beaver dam is across the street.

3. Rabies

There was an incident recently on W. Hawley Road, a suspected rabid Raccoon was killed after there was an interaction with a cat.

Lingle talked to Kyle Dragon, animal control officer about what other towns do in terms of paying for testing. Kyle said that Towns pay for testing to make sure there is no incentive not to report as

there are fatal consequences to being exposed. Telling said it has been the policy to have the Town pay. Lingle would like to make it very clear that that is the policy, that if a party has been affected, they should report, and the perpetrator animal should be tested. There is money in the animal inspector account for this. J. Ward said she had previously done animal inspection, and if there is ever a need, she can support those inquiries. She can be listed as a backup person. It will need to go through the director, but she is qualified to be a resource and happy to do it.

Reporting process is as follows: Given the danger of rabies it's important to know when there are rabid animals. It's important to contact the Animal control officer/ animal inspector to get the animal, and the town will pay for testing with no cost for the person experiencing the situation. Lingle would like something like this to be in its own paragraph before it gets into the minutia.

Telling made a motion to write language stressing importance of knowing the condition of suspect animals in animal-on-animal and animal-on-human incidents and the importance of getting tested, and that the town will pay. Lingle seconded the motion. Telling – yes; Randall-- yes; Lingle—yes.

J. Ward said she is comfortable with packaging suspected rabid animal parts.
Telling will work on the middle paragraph and present it next meeting for a vote.

Recurring Topics:

1. Health Agent Report

Everyone is busy-- J.Ward on food and camps, Schellenberg on Title V's, 5 days a week.
The 42 Burrington Road perc test failed, there is a better place up the hill.

P.Walker is not wanting to give boards advice yet on lithium batteries.

Lingle motioned to close the meeting at 6:45 PM. Telling seconded the motion. Telling-yes, Lingle-Yes, Randall—yes.

These minutes are not official until signed.

Documents Reviewed

- Agenda 5/20/2025
- Minutes 4/22/2025
- Rabies Policy