

Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, February 10, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Minutes of the Board of Health meeting

Present: Chair, Mary McDowell, Members, Marcia Rising, Merrily Evdokimoff
Health Agent, Jim Garreffi

Chair McDowell called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM

Jenna Montgomery- Nashoba Board of Health, Public Health Educator
Jenna requested to come before the Board to introduce herself and to discuss with the Board, the public health needs and how she can support the Board and Town.
A survey was sent to Board members and staff that she hopes will help to discover the types of needs each town in the district has. She is putting together educational material on what each town needs.

She will also attend coalition and committee meetings. Some areas that she will be providing educational material on are mental health and substance abuse. She will provide the weekly Covid reports. Jenna also stated she will be working on a newsletter that will focus on highlights from each of the 16 Nashoba District towns.

Jenna asked the Board what changes they have seen during their time on the Board.
M. Evdokimoff commented that she has seen changes in the community, it is not as rural as it has been in the past, more animal control issues.

M. Rising- stated she is a 60-year resident, at that time the population was 2200, it has grown to 7200. Residents want a rural setting but may not be aware of the septic and well responsibilities when purchasing a home. Community involvement and support has changed. Covid has brought a lot of difficulties in this regard. The Board of Health covers a very broad range of topics and oversees many responsibilities.

M. Evdokimoff also stated the regionalization with Nashoba Board of Health, Animal Control Officer shared services and the membership of Devens Household Hazardous Collection center, have all benefitted the town and been a positive for the Board of Health. The new town manager has created more communication avenues to promote health and public service information.

Agent Report

- Covid Update- Trends seem to be going in right direction. Two weeks after the new year and holidays -case count was 216, second week- case count 157 and third week- 89 cases. This past week 61 cases, and numbers are decreasing. The Nashoba District observed very large daily case increases after the holidays, 300 cases a day.
- Code Red- allows text and voicemail to possible contacts, a better way to reach people.
All areas in the State seem to be following this decline in numbers.
- Test Kits- were ordered by Stow, if any interest, more can be ordered from MRC Region 4 AB, survey was sent out to gauge interest. Stow still has kits left.
- Mask mandates- some communities have mandates, DESE dropping mandate
- Some schools in the district are doing pool testing, but many communities have high vaccine rates.
- CDC has not changed their guidance on masks. Still recommend masks.
- Boards can follow CDC and recommend but allow personal choice.
- Vaccine is still available, demand for boosters is low. Nashoba has been working to get the information out to the public and provide more convenient locations for the public to attend the clinics.
- Stow will submit a request to region 4 AB for test kits if available.

Discussion items

- Title 5 Inspection Report – 180 Barton Road- J. Garreffi would like to review the file and assessors' records to determine the bedroom count. Permit did not specify bedroom. System installed in 1995.

Review of Final Draft of Well Regulations

- PFAS- ask for additional testing if public information shows areas of concern. Policy can be added to specify areas and Board of Health require testing at time of property sale and new construction. Policy can be updated as areas change, instead of updating full regulations. J. Garreffi said once regulations are in place a notice should be sent to builders, realtors, well drillers and on the website to get the information out. J. Garreffi will put together a list of areas in Stow that are a concern.
- Private well certificate of compliance- J. Garreffi wants to make sure that he has captured the information.

Vote to accept revisions of Town of Stow Private Well Regulations

M. Evdokimoff made a motion to accept the revisions to the Town of Stow Private Well Regulations with the caveat that there will be an addendum to address the PFAS testing, and the review of the locations in town where PFAS areas of concern will be provided for review at the March 2022 Board of Health meeting. M. Rising seconded the motion to approve, all members in favor.

J. Garreffi will update the document and Board members will sign as available.

Minutes review for December and January Meetings

M. Evdokimoff approved December minutes, absent January meeting.

M. Rising approved December only, has not reviewed January.

M. McDowell reviewed both and submitted corrections.

M. Rising made a motion to approve the December 2, 2021, meeting minutes as corrected, M. McDowell seconded the motion to approve, all in favor.

Final approval for January minutes will be at March meeting.

Member Updates and Comments

- M. Rising- volunteered to create the annual report for 2021.
- M. Evdokimoff- MRC and emergency preparedness, who will decide if a shelter is needed, due to severe weather. Staffing issues are a problem statewide. Will this become an emergency director's responsibility. M. Evdokimoff will contact the new fire chief to discuss.
- M. Rising suggested a meeting or discussion with Town Administrator and Fire Chief. LEPC has not met in a long time.
- M. Evdokimoff asked what other NABH towns are doing with MRC. Is regionalization an option?
- J. Garreffi said some towns, such as Littleton has a volunteer corp. This came about after MRC didn't pan out. The volunteer Corp has helped at Nashoba Clinics. Their head volunteer works with the emergency management director in Littleton. J. Garreffi said a volunteer corps or Cert without the word medical may attract more volunteers.

Office Updates

- FY23 Budget has been reviewed with Town Administrator, ACO Agreement still pending from Boxborough, consolidated of some line items, beaver trapping budget to be moved to Highway budget.
- ARPA fund requests should be submitted to Town Administrator.
- Rubbish Hauler paperwork has been received for review and permit renewal.
- Permits renewals have gone out for Tobacco and Dumpsters.

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Approved: March 10, 2022

- C. Colosi has reached out to the Leominster Tobacco Alliance director for renewal information.
- M. McDowell asked if communication has improved sending septic plan information to Conservation Dept. for review. C. Colosi said yes, the soil test applications and review forms are working well.
- Mask Mandate email received in the Board of Health office were forwarded to the members prior to the meeting.
- Animal Control Officer would like to attend the March meeting. C. Colosi will request information prior to the meeting.

Public Comment

K. Fisher commented she is happy to see the well regulations review finalized as she said there are many building projects coming up.

No other comments or concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Next Board of Health meeting- March 10, 2022