

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 16, 2021, 5:00P.M.**  
**LOCATION: REMOTE**

**PRESENT:**

Chairperson Margie LaFleur, Member Phillip Durno, Member Renee D'Argento, Health Agent Kalene Gendron, Interim Assistant Trish DeLorey, Margaret Scarsdale of 90 Nashua Road; Stephen Themelis of 4 Franklin Street and Mark Mathews, Master Plan Implementation Team Member (MPIT).

Chairperson Margie LaFleur opened the meeting at 5:08p.m. She announced that the meeting was remote participation only; meeting is being cablecast live and recorded by Pepperell Community Media.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Master Plan Implementation Team's Response to Social Worker Position**

Chairperson LaFleur tabled the acceptance of the minutes to allow Mark Mathews from the Master Plan Implementation Team (MPIT) an opportunity to speak regarding the MPIT's response to the Social Worker position. Ms. LaFleur recapped that she had reached out to the Master Plan Implementation Team (MPIT) hoping to utilize Section 7.3 of the Master Plan Worksheet to acquire funding and approval for the Social Worker position. She reported that it was unfortunate that this approach to acquire this new position was not successful; but expressed her thanks and appreciation to Mr. Mathews for his efforts.

Mr. Mathews explained that he met with other team members of the Master Plan Implementation Team and all were in agreement that they could not make any changes to the Master Plan. They felt it was not appropriate to add the Social Worker position to the Master Plan.

Ms. LaFleur stated that she had communicated with the Town Administrator and sent an email to the Police, Fire and Council on Aging suggesting that they collaborate together by joining efforts and funding to allocate for a shared Social Worker between departments. She reported that Sue McCarthy the Director of the Senior Center was very much interested. However, she had not received a response back from Police or Fire. She noted that the Town Administrator encouraged her to keep trying for this Social Worker position and maybe, if funds become available, this goal will be achieved in the future.

After much discussions among Board Members and Margaret Scarsdale; the Board concluded that they will take the strategy of a two prong approach in their efforts to obtain a Social Worker. First attempt will be to present the need and funding of the Social Worker position to FINCOM and if unsuccessful they will present it to the residents at next Town Meeting.

It was agreed that the Board will first modify their FY22 Budget again to include the Social Worker position as a new line item and review this at their next Board meeting on the 2nd of March. The Board will also have this request added to FINCOM's meeting agenda scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>. This revision will be presented to FINCOM on March 17<sup>th</sup> and if not accepted and

moved forward with; then the Board will make plans to present it to the voters at the next Town Meeting.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Chairperson LaFleur presented to the Board the following meeting minutes:

**Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2020:**

On a motion made by Renee D'Argento; seconded by Phillip Durno, it was voted all in favor to approve the meeting minutes of November 24, 2020 as written. Discussion ensued and it was determined that Phil Durno had lost remote connection during the meeting of November 24th. On a motion made by Renee D'Argento; seconded by Chairperson LaFleur it was voted in favor to rescind the motion to approve the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes because Mr. Durno was not present at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in its entirety.

On a motion made by Renee D'Argento, seconded by Margie LaFleur, Phillip Durno abstained; it was voted to approve the meeting minutes of November 24, 2020 as written.

**Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2020:**

On a motion made by Renee D'Argento; seconded by Phillip Durno; it was voted all in favor to approve the meeting minutes of December 15, 2020 as written.

**Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021:**

On a motion made by Renee D'Argento; seconded by Phillip Durno; it was voted all in favor to approve the meeting minutes of January 19, 2021 as written.

**Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2021:**

On a motion made by Renee D'Argento; seconded by Phillip Durno; it was voted all in favor to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2021 as written.

**APPROVE BILL WARRANT:**

**Resubmittal of Pepperell Veterinary Hospital Invoice**

Chairperson LaFleur reviewed with the Board a Bill Warrant dated 2/12/21 for the resubmittal of the Pepperell Veterinary Hospital Invoice of August 31, 2020 in the amount of \$113.55 for the rabies testing of a bat. Trish DeLorey explained that a past due notice regarding this invoice was recently sent to the BOH office. Upon further investigation, it was determined that payment was processed but never received by the vendor. The Town Treasurer and Town Accountant concluded that a check was generated on 9/23/2020 for \$113.55 and mailed to the correct mailing address. However, the check issued was never cashed. A stop payment on the check of \$113.55 was generated and now the Board must approve the resubmittal and payment of this invoice. On a motion made by Renee D'Argento; seconded by Margie LaFleur; it was voted all in favor to approve the resubmittal and Bill Warrant dated February 12, 2021 for \$113.55.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Pepperell Skydiving Center – Request for Variance to Camping Regulations – Application for License**

Chairperson LaFleur reviewed with the Board a letter from the Pepperell Skydiving Center requesting a variance to camping regulations 105 CMR 440.10; Sewage Disposal. The letter noted that in order to meet health standards, the Center has contracted licensed septage haulers to provide sanitary pumping of the trailers' holding tanks if and when it is necessary. It also stated that campers also use the local Town of Pepperell Waste Water Facility. In addition the Pepperell Sky Diving Center is scheduled to conduct an annual pumping of their septic system before their season begins. The letter informed the Board that in the Summer of 2014 they acquired a permit for the outdoor showers and brought them up to code and during the Summer of 2015, the piping of water to campsites were completed and approved.

Discussion ensued between Health Agent Gendron and the Board. It was noted that both the variance and the license application for 36 family-style seasonal camp sites; which also includes tent sites, is an annual request.

On a motion made by Phil Durno; seconded by Renee D'Argento it was voted all in favor to approve the 2021 Pepperell Skydiving Center family-type campground license.

On a motion made by Phil Durno; seconded by Renee D'Argento it was voted all in favor to approve the variance to camping regulations as requested by Pepperell Skydiving Center.

### **7A & 7B Scotch Pine Farm Way Units 1&2; Special Permit Application – Planning Board**

Chairperson LaFleur reviewed with the Board a letter from the Planning Board requesting comments on a Special Permit Application for two-family dwellings at 7A Scotch Pine Farm Way, Units 1 and 2; and Lot7B Scotch Pine Farm Way, Units 1 and 2.

Health Agent Gendron presented her written comments and concerns to the Board. Discussion ensued as Renee D'Argento questioned Ms. Gendron on number four and number five of her comments; detailing how Dust, Odor and Noise will be controlled on the site; as well as the clear cutting of the lot and the removal of tree stumps. On a motion made by Renee D'Argento, seconded by Phil Durno; it was voted all in favor to approve and submit the comments written by Kalene Gendron to the Planning Board.

### **Review Draft of 2020 Annual Town Report**

Chairperson LaFleur reviewed with the Board a written draft of the 2020 Annual Town Report. It was noted that the final draft is due to the Town Clerk by February 26<sup>th</sup>. Grand Total of the number of services are normally provided by Jim Garreffo from NABH; however these totals have not been received to date. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the way the report was written without the numbers would be acceptable. The Board decided that a paragraph should be written and inserted regarding the needs and unmet goals of the department. Particular emphasis should be addressed on the great need to create and fill the position of a Social Worker. Health Agent Gendron stated that she will work with Trish DeLorey in finalizing the draft and prepare

the report for submittal. On a motion made by Phil Durno, seconded by Renee D'Argento; it was voted to approve the 2020 Annual Town Report after edits are completed by Health Agent Gendron and Trish DeLorey; and the Board's final review prior to receipt by Town Clerk.

### **OLD BUSINESS (CONT.):**

#### **Status of Noise Compliant at 117 Chestnut Street**

Health Agent Gendron informed the Board that she had no further updates to report. The last complaint was received on December 11, 2020; which appears to be an isolated incident as she has not received any other complaints since. Ms. Gendron stated that she will continue to make random site visits when she is in the area. However, it appears that the issue has been resolved.

### **HEALTH AGENT COMMENTS:**

#### **COVID-19 Updates:**

Health Agent Kalene Gendron reported that the State continues to recommend that masks be worn when out in public; there has been some emphasis on doubling up on masks. Vaccine information continues to be updated on our State and Town websites. This week, pharmacies will be coming on line with appointment availability. The State prefers the preference of the mass vaccination sites, the largest sites, such as Springfield, Fenway and Gillette locations. The State views the local Board of Health offices as a key component in servicing residents who have the hardest time obtaining the vaccine.

The BOH and NABH offices still continue to field calls as to why the local Board of Health Offices are not hosting vaccine clinics closer to home. The Pepperell Council on Aging is requesting residents 65 years or older to complete a survey on the town website to assist the Governor in his request to obtain more vaccines in the state of Massachusetts. Vaccines on the federal level are not coming into our area as rapidly as we would have hoped. Therefore, it is impossible to host vaccine clinics when we do not have the vaccine.

Discussions ensued among attendees. It was noted that the State was focusing vaccine distribution in large densely populated areas especially where the COVID-19 numbers were the highest. Ms. Gendron reported that in the last three weeks, NABH had received 200 vaccines to share between 16 communities. Therefore, there is now a strong momentum from our State and local representatives; as well as our Council on Aging Director and Town Administrator to have more vaccines available in this areas.

Margaret Scarsdale reported that on February 9<sup>th</sup> there was a joint conference call with the 16 communities in the NABH domain. Together with Jim Garreffi, the Director of the NABH, multiple State Representatives and Senators, and all Town Administrators and Town Managers within these 16 communities; the issue of this vaccine vacuum was discussed. Masy Bio-Service Company was also on the call as they have the ability to store vaccines at proper temperatures. In the most recent vaccine distribution; 100 vaccines were received and distributed among 16 communities resulting in seven vaccines per community. Collectively this group composed a

letter which was signed by all representing the 16 communities and sent to the Governor. Jointly they requested more vaccines and a local vaccine site to be set up in Devens. Hopefully, this coordinated diligent effort will result in getting our residents vaccinated at a conveniently located site.

## **MATTERS THAT MAY BE RAISED THAT THE CHAIR DID NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATE**

### **Tobacco Regulations**

Chairperson LaFleur shared an email forwarded to her from our Health Agent Kalene Gendron. The email was from Sarah McColgan, Director of the Tobacco Control Program of the Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA). Ms. McColgan informed the Board that on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m., Cheryl Sbarra, D.J. Wilson, together with herself will be hosting a zoom call for any tobacco related questions and discussions. She reiterated that this would be a good opportunity to talk about the new sample tobacco and vape products regulations that would update our municipality's regulations to comply with the new state law, including the dual fining structure and how to track that. She encouraged the Board to attend and bring their questionable vape and tobacco products to the zoom meeting.

Ms. LaFleur stated that back in March 2020, D.J. Wilson from MHOA had planned to meet with the Board but because of the pandemic, it never happened. She stated that she planned on attending this zoom meeting tomorrow; and will then update the Board on the new tobacco and vape product state regulations. She noted that the drafted tobacco regulations that the Board has on file has been a work in progress and these will have to be reviewed and modified to reflect the new state regulations.

Ms. Fleur suggested that the Board invite D.J. Wilson to a future meeting to discuss the new state regulations and how they would apply to our municipality.

Kalene Gendron informed the Board that these new revisions include the vaping language which was never part of the original regulations. These state regulations have just evolved and at tomorrow's zoom meeting they will bring everyone up-to-date. Ms. Gendron reiterated that currently we do not have any tobacco regulations in the Town of Pepperell. Ms. Gendron noted that it is a multi-step process, if we were to adopt tobacco regulations in the Town of Pepperell; we would be responsible for enforcement, permitting, compliance checks, and education.

Discussion ensued among Board Members and Kalene Gendron regarding enforcement issues, historical data on local inspections from NABH and residents crossing state lines to purchase tobacco and vape products.

It was concluded that the Board will invite D.J. Wilson to a future Board meeting to learn the process on how to navigate these new tobacco and vape product regulations and determine if the Board should get involved at a Town level.

**FUTURE MEETING:**

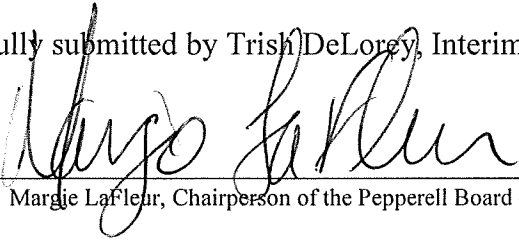
The next PBOH meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2021 at 5p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion made by Phil Durno; seconded by Renee D'Argento, it was voted all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 6:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Trish DeLorey, Interim Assistant to the Board of Health

Signed:



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Margie LaFleur, Chairperson of the Pepperell Board of Health

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Renee D'Argento, Member of the Pepperell Board of Health

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Phillip Durno, Member of the Pepperell Board of Health