

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 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 5:02p.m. She announced that the meeting was remote participation only; meeting is being cablecast live and recorded by Pepperell Community Media.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Chairperson LaFleur presented to the Board the meeting minutes of February 16, 2021. On a motion made by Phillip Durno; seconded by Renee D'Argento, it was voted all in favor to approve the meeting minutes of February 16, 2021 as written.

Chairperson LaFleur presented to the Board the meeting minutes of March 2, 2021. She noted the correction of the word diverter instead of diverted on page two. On a motion made by Phil Durno, seconded by Renee D'Argento it was voted all in favor to approve the meeting minutes of March 2, 2021 as written with noted correction.

APPROVE BILL WARRANT:

Chairperson LaFleur reviewed with the Board a Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Invoice dated March 1, 2021 for the fourth quarter FY2021 Nursing Services, \$3,716.47; and Environmental Services, \$8,143.90; combined services totaled \$11,860.37. On a motion made by Renee D'Argento; seconded by Phil Durno; it was voted all in favor to approve the bill warrant of March 16, 2021 in the amount of \$11,860.37.

ACTION ITEMS:

Master Plan Implementation – Additional Initiatives for the BOH - Status Report

Chairperson LaFleur welcomed Mark Mathews of the Master Plan Implementation Team and announced that Mr. Mathews will be reviewing with the Board three MPIT worksheets as the Master Plan Implementation Team requests that the Board track and report the implementation of recommendations. The Pepperell Board of Health has been asked to establish and submit an initial baseline status report to the Master Plan Implementation Team by April 9th.

Ms. LaFleur turned the Go-To-Meeting screen over to Mr. Mathews, making him the Presenter, providing him the ability to share his presentation with all attendees. The Board reviewed each individual MPIT worksheet together. Discussion followed as the Board reviewed MPIT recommendations, asked questions and provided feedback. Mr. Mathews typed in their answers and comments on each MPIT Worksheet.

The first worksheet reviewed listed several recommendations on how to improve ongoing public education as a means of reducing the town’s solid waste disposal costs. The second worksheet was titled Open Space Recreation Plan (OSRP) where the Board reviewed two recommendations. One recommendation was regarding educating residents on avoiding tick-borne and mosquito transmitted diseases. The other was concerning establishing and organizing community-wide walking events with the Recreation Department and Senior Center. The final worksheet was titled “Toward a More Resilient and Sustainable Pepperell Report”. This MPIT worksheet listed a total of six recommendations; five recommendations were in relation to monitoring, reporting and educating the public, particularly high-risk groups, about personal prevention practices on Vector Borne Disease. And one recommendation focused on supporting the implementation of the DPH’s Mass in Motion and other Wellness Programs to increase community resilience.

The Board together with Health Agent Gendron and Mark Mathews discussed each recommendation and completed each MPIT worksheet detailing the timeframe and assignees of each initiative, the January through March 2021 Status Update; noting if proposal was started, in process, or completed and finally the recommendations results/status comments were recorded .

Discussions ensued on topics currently on the BOH website; how to improve and create a more informative user-friendly website and perhaps implement Civic Meetings on various health topics. Collaboration between schools and other town departments to achieve goals and initiatives listed on these MPIT worksheets were also discussed.

The Board thanked Mark Mathews for his clarification and guidance in helping to complete all three MPIT worksheets. Chairperson LaFleur stated she will review and submit these reports to the Master Plan Implementation Team prior to the deadline of April 9th.

HEALTH AGENT COMMENTS:

COVID-19 Updates:

Health Agent Kalene Gendron reported that currently there were no new updates to report. Only highlight is on March 22nd, the State is hoping to move to Phase IV of the vaccine eligibility phase. This change will be made based on new public health data. Therefore, within the next week or so we can look forward to new changes on the COVID-19 status and the State’s vaccination plan. Currently, anyone sixty-five years or older may still contact our Senior Center to coordinate a vaccination appointment. Ms. Gendron stated that she will continue to keep the Board updated as the COVID-19 situation changes.

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

The Resignation of Phillip Durno from the Board of Health

Phil Durno regretfully announced his resignation from the Board of Health effective March 31, 2021. Mr. Durno stated that due to health reasons he feels he is not able to perform his duties to the standards he has set for himself. He shared his thanks and appreciation to all those he has worked with throughout the past twelve years and regrets that he is unable to finish his term.

Chairperson LaFleur, Rene D'Argento and Health Agent Gendron each expressed their respect, gratitude and appreciation for Phil Durno's hard work, dedication and commitment to the Town of Pepperell. They all reiterated that his service while on the Board of Health has been invaluable and his presence will be greatly missed.

NABH – Pepperell 2020 Report

Renee D'Argento complimented Jim Garreff's 2020 Pepperell Report detailing Nashoba Associated Boards of Health's nursing and environmental services provided to the Town of Pepperell. She found the report very informative as it details the overall needs and services received in the Town. She is pleased that it will be posted on our town website and recommends it also be included in our Annual Town Report.

FUTURE MEETING:

Discussion ensued regarding the next Pepperell Board of Health meeting. It was noted that the Board was scheduled to meet with the Finance Committee to review the FY2022 PBOH Budget at 7p.m. on March 17th. Margie LaFleur and Kalene Gendron announced their vacation plans in the month of April. The Board noted the Annual Town Elections were scheduled for April 26th. It was agreed to have a meeting as needed in April; date to be determined at a later date.

Chairperson LaFleur announced that her term on the Board of Health will end on April 26, 2021; due to family and business commitments, she will not be running for re-election. Health Agent Kalene Gendron and Board members expressed their appreciation and gratitude for her dedicated service over the past six years.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Renee D'Argento; seconded by Phillip Durno, it was voted all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 6:15p.m.

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

Signed: Renee D'Argento
Renee D'Argento, Acting Chairperson of the Pepperell Board of Health