

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom # 288 065 7034 or in person

Present: Board Members: Herb Butzke, Chair, Board Members: Dan Poplawski and Joanne Semanie, Christine Bailey, Health Clerk and Rachel Lewis, RN

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Herb Butzke at the Rowe Town Hall.

General Business:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the November 16, 2022, meeting.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve all invoices.

Transfer Station

- The Transfer Station logs were reviewed and read by Dan Poplawski.
- Josh Jones of Colrain submitted a quote for fixing the concrete wall at the Transfer Station. Chair Herb spoke with Jan Ameen and she expressed that Waste Management is now claiming that the wall was already cracked/damaged before the haul hit the wall. Jan said this is unacceptable, and she will be contesting the claim.

FCSWMD

- An email from was received from FCSWMD on recycling holiday wrapping, etc. Christine has forwarded the flyer to Rob Beaumier to post at the Transfer Station. She also forwarded the flyer to the Goal Post for the January edition. Christine will ask if this reminder can be received in November to be submitted to the goal post in more of a timely manner.
- FCSWMD submitted their annual Executive Director's Report.

NURSE UPDATES:

- Rachel reported her individual statistics for the month of November. She had an average of 7 patients a day in the 10.2 days that she worked. In December, the average has been 8 to date. With the flu season upon us and the numbers elevated, she has been administering a lot of flu shots.
- The foot clinic was another great success for December. Eleven residents attended. The January clinic is full and the February is already half full.
- Rachel has set up a Wellness Clinic scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2023. She is working with Jessi Byrne of Northern Berkshire Community Coalition and FRCOG nurses who will be attending, offering information on fall prevention, dementia, etc. Rachel will be offering blood pressure checks and Christine will be offering mini reflexology sessions.
- COVID is stable in Massachusetts and Franklin County with about 7,500 new cases in MA over the last week. Ninety-six cases have been reported in Franklin County, with one case for Rowe. There have been 766 hospitalizations in MA (239 with COVID illness) and 76 COVID related deaths in MA last week. There have been 5,500 new flu cases in MA over the last week with 2.9% of the flu cases being hospitalized (higher than previous 3 seasons at the same week. (2.9% is where hospitalizations are in mid-January of previous years), Flu-like visits to healthcare providers is 5.7% (baseline for previous 3 years at this time is 2%), and Influenza-like illness (ILI) is considered "high" in most parts of MA right now.
- There is another round of MA DPH COVID tests and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) coming.
- Rachel said she will be taking some personal time in January and will submit a request.

WATER TESTING: National Grid emailed their Yearly Operational Plan to the BOH and the Conservation Committee.

PERC TESTING: Chair Herb attended a perc test at 19 Ford Hill Road on December 5, 2022 @ 9:00 a.m. The test failed. He also expressed the land has a lot of ledge.

FY24 Budget: The committee reviewed the budget which Herb will submit to Administration on December 15, 2022. It was noted that the salary line items will need to be discussed after the BOS and Finance Committee submits the new FY24 Salary Worksheet and guidelines. He also submitted line item increases to the Refuse Garden Operations, FCSWMD and FRCOG Health Services Assessment due to increased hauling expenses and increased budget submittals/charges.

There was no new business brought to the table.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:33 pm unanimously

Next meeting: January 4, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Approved: 

Herb Butzke, Chair



Daniel Poplawski

Joanne Semanie