

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
December 1, 2022

OPENING: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Health opened at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Alex White - Health Director
Sue Brzoska – Chairman
Jean Nilsson – Member
Mikenzie Cain – Vice Chairman
Tom FitzGerald – Acting Health Director
Tricia Sedelow – Health Nurse
Christine Southworth – Health Nurse
Dee Giordano – Secretary

MINUTES

Review of minutes from 11/22/22 meeting. Mrs. Nilsson had minor corrections changing the words ‘this winter’ to next season. Ms. Nilsson made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Cain seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous.

The Board members agreed to post the Health Director’s position on Indeed. Mr. White noted that there is currently one applicant.

Ms. Cain stopped participating in the meeting as of 6:15 for what appeared to be a lost Zoom connection.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were not public comments.

NURSES’ REPORT

Christine Southworth’s Report:

Ms. Southworth met with COA and will host Elms College student’s presentations beginning in January and will also consider a foot care clinic. At this time, there is no confirmation about doing a Covid clinic. The Blandford clinic signs emailed to COA and Library.

Ms. Southworth also met with Library Director who is new to the position and may be interested in presentations. The library may start opening on Saturdays, as there is no real traffic during the week.

Ms. Southworth will also attend select board meeting 12/13.

The nurse lead at Gateway regional, who is new to position, will contact her when she is settled.

This past month there was one case of influenza, one Covid case reported in Maven.

Blandford – Ms. Southworth met with COA board on 11/21 who were interested in foot care clinic, booked BP clinics with nurse and before monthly Friday lunch (beginning in January), will create a private, confidential space in water room for BPs and will answer resident health questions. Will collaborate with Pat the town medic who does home visits and BPs for COA.

Ms. Southworth scheduled two vaccine clinics booked for December at Town Hall, (Covid, 12/5, Flu 12/12.), is working with Elms college students to do health presentations beginning in February alternating weeks with Russell, and will facilitate presentation on boosting your immunity naturally at the library on December 10th.

Montgomery – Ms. Southworth met with seniors at Montgomery Café who Suggested she contact Hilltown Community Center and COA in Huntington. Many seniors from Russell, Blandford and Montgomery go there. Ms. Southworth will attend a presentation by the Alzheimer's Assoc. on 12/7 and talk with the director of COA during the Memory Cage. No return call x 2 from the outreach nurse at the Hilltown Community Center.

Ms. Southworth met with town secretary and will meet with Select Board on 12/8. The Town Hall is under renovations. Ms. Southworth will ask about putting up a health and wellness info board in hallway and will ask about using COA space at Town Hall for foot care clinic and BP clinic.

Most seniors have had Covid and flu shots, do not think there is any interest since everyone goes to Huntington. There was no response from the signs put up on Election Day at the Town Hall and at the Café for a week.

Ms. Southworth will find a place for a Wellness topic board at the Town Hall to change monthly, and will post material in the hallway outside the Montgomery Café dining area.

Additional topics

- Attended Southwick Tolland Granville School for presentation
- Visited HVES for supportive services
- Attended Southwick Fire Dept. meeting
- Worked on securing an MD for standing orders.

A Huntington COA meeting is scheduled for 12/7.

- Ms. Southworth also created wellness boards, handouts and presentations, to distribute to all of the communities.

Tricia Sedelow's Report:

Ms. Sedelow will attend a meeting between Fire Chief, COA PHN, and Director of Health on Nov 18th.

Ms. Sedelow also scheduled a meeting with Lynn Blair, Library Nov 9, and with the Health Advisory Team at the Powder Mill School Nov 8, and also with Michael Pescitelli, Assistant Principal.

Ms. Sedelow contacted Liz Skerry-Hastings at Southwick Villages for a presentations in January

Tolland – Ms. Sedelow will hold a coffee hour November 9 and November 21 at COA Public Safety Complex and create a “health newsletter” for Tolland

A meeting is scheduled with Jessica Kelmelis, Tolland Library on November 2.

Granville – Ms. Sedelow set up a meeting with Lise LeTellier, Granville Library on November 10, a COVID clinic for Granville – to be held on November 16 from 3 to 7, a flu clinic for Granville – to be held on November 30 from 3 to 7. Ms. Sedelow is waiting on BOS for approval for “Nurse Hour” bi-monthly at Town Hall

Other pertinent information:

Meeting with PHN in Agawam for resources

Meeting with PHN in Westfield for collaboration

Gathering information on establishing flu clinics/billing for clinics

Setting up account with McKesson

Met with HVES to discuss availability of VNA in Tolland and other hill towns

Sleep presentation

Researching presentations for towns

For homebound residents needing vaccines, Mass mobile vaccines – call 833-983-048

Ms. Brzoska brought up the topic of privacy for nurses in BOH office. The Board discussed moving into small room where fridge is currently housed and to move things out of there to create a space for the nurses. The Board of Health secretary will take over space where nurses currently work.

Ms. Brzoska has asked for copy of BOH budget to determine the year to date figures including grant funds for nurses.

Ms. Brzoska and Ms. Nilsson stated that they will rescind the resignation of Dee Giordano as secretary.

Mr. FitzGerald opened a discussion about approaching Jordan Healthcare to see if they would provide personnel qualified to sign orders for the nurses.

Ms. Brzoska stated that she sent Michelle Hill a copy of regulations including body art. Mr. White will get them stamped so that they could be forwarded to State.

Board members will review application for BOH Director and set up an interview for next meeting on December 15, 2022.

Certificate of Compliance:

9A Sawgrass Lane, COC new construction
104 Sheep Pasture Road, COC repair
91 Sawgrass Lane, COC new construction
15 Lexington Circle, COC component

Percolation Tests/ Disposal Works Construction Permits:

108 Congamond Rd., Pre-operational inspection, NOT ready
194 Hillside Road
115 Fred Jackson Road, rough inspections, final inspection
6 Birchwood Road, COC repair
1 Tall Pines Trail, new construction
5 Tall Pines Trail, new construction
9 Tall Pines Trail, new construction

Housing Inspections:

3 Evergreen Street, Housing – the work on furnace and door in in progress according to Freedom Credit Union

Well Permits

368 Granville Road
331 North Loomis Street
40 Mort Vining Road

The Board discussion the public sewer installation at Crabby Joe's. Ms. Nilsson will review the records from the Sewer Implementation Committee to determine if both the upper and lower facilities have been connected.

Ms. Nilsson made motion to adjourn meeting at 7:29 Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Alex White, Health Director

Sue Brzoska, Chairman

Jean Nilsson, Vice-Chairman

Dee Giordano, Secretary

Date