

Approved May 11, 2022

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2022, 3:30 pm
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Bob Osley, Chair, Member Liz Kugler; Vice Chair Jeffrey Zgrodnik; Loren Devine, Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition; Denise Corrigan, Public Health Nurse, City of Northampton; Jean Hobbie, School Nurse

CALL TO ORDER Chair Osley called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM Jean Hobbie thanked the Board for the extension of time when the State mask mandated ended. Nurse Hobbie went on by giving us the extra time for the mask extension, we were able to form a plan. We appreciate all you do. We are working on the mental health aspect of all of this. Thank you for all you do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Member Kugler made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 10, 2022; Vice Chair Jeffrey Zgrodnik seconded, all in favor, aye, minutes approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Representatives from Northampton Health Department under the Shared Services Grant: Chair Osley spoke to Loren Devine and Denise Corrigan that the Board is looking forward to working with Northampton Health Department (“NHD”) in the future. Chair Osley asked about what other services are available. Ms. Devine runs the Hampshire Health Coalition, and they do emergency planning. There is a grant available from the State. Public health has always been underfunded. The goal of the fund is for a regional outreach. Northampton will be offering 1) regional infectious disease data; 2) regional public nursing. So many towns don’t have a public nurse. This grant offers staffing, money and training to get a more robust public health service. Smaller towns have less access to public health services, so this grant gives them the money to do that. Northampton will train people. Ms. Devine mentioned that Northampton had a slower start but now we are full speed ahead. For the last 9 to 10 months, we have been busy with COVID, homebound vaccines, regional clinic, testing, PPE, etc. If you identify a need, you need to let the NHD know, and they can build it in. Soon Hatfield will have access to regional data. Ms. Devine told the Board that this is a ten-year grant as there are three 3-year phases coming up. They are doing contract tracing and education. Chair Osley asked if they do track non-infectious diseases like cancer. Ms. Devine stated that Massachusetts requires towns to report non-infectious diseases and the information is put into MAVEN. The contact tracing was to support diseases, not COVID, but COVID took it over. The NHD offers CPR, overdose, coffee hour with a nurse and will be doing regular public health nurse questions, blood pressure screening, vaccine clinics. This fall we will have flu clinics. Supplies can be requested, COVID tests, sanitizer, gloves, PPE, etc. Chair Osley asked about incident command - do you step in? Ms. Devine stated that people are working with emergency preparedness, people have

emergency preparedness training and have taken online classes. If we wanted practice using it, we could offer training and exercises on how to use it. The classes are online. Moving forward there are multiple phases to the grant. In the future we will be doing regional inspectional services - we will be inspecting housing, restaurants, camps. Chair Osley said the health agent does this now but this program will take that over. Ms. Devine stated that a booster vaccine clinic was held the day before in Easthampton. We have everything in a trailer and the amount of people showing up was amazing Nurse Corrigan said. Nurse Corrigan said they are available to do blood pressure clinics at different senior centers in the area. Once a month they could do an informational session for a specific topic for about 10 minutes - talking about blood pressure and why the top number is higher than the lower. Communities are having community events, health fairs and we could help with that. Ms. Devine stated that they are excited about the lock box program. Medications for COVID are in the boxes and the public can help themselves. Ms. Corrigan said that Easthampton has lock boxes at City Hall and other places. Questions arose about the temperature inside those boxes, but Ms. Devine stated they looking are into boxes that would keep it cooler. Ms. Devine said they offer CPR classes at a \$10.00 charge and that Meredith O'Leary suggested offering food safety emergency classes.

Ms. Devine stated that this is a starting point. Member Kugler would like to do a booster clinic. It was suggested that she contact the Health Department to schedule that. Ms. Corrigan stated that they always have enough vaccines and boosters, Moderna, Pfizer, J&J and the 5 and up vaccine. A flu vaccine is an option in the fall time.

TOPIC 2 COVID Update: Chair Osley informed the Board that there were 6 cases this past week. He thanked Nurse Hobbs for keeping the Board up to date on the school numbers. Otherwise, we would have no idea of what's going on in the schools.

TOPIC 3 COVID 2nd booster clinic: Chair Osley stated that we talked about this topic earlier with the representatives from the Northampton Health Department.

TOPIC 4 CEU classes coming up soon for ServSafe Certification and a couple Title 5 classes: Chair Osley reminded everyone that of the ServSafe training on May 10th at the Bluebonnet. Also, there is a Title V seminar on May 12th.

TOPIC 5 Approval of Food Applications: Chair Osley mentioned we are getting more prepackaged food permits recently. The current food application permits were signed.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS: Vice Chair Zgrodnik informed the Board that he has reached out to the landlord about a problem with a tenant on Elm Street. The landlord resolved this same issue last fall. Hopefully the landlord will take care of it before it gets out of hand. There needs to be a handle on this once and for all, not every 6 months. The landlord is trying to work with the tenant about cleaning up the area.

The Board spoke about the Title V property being transferred within the family and it was unknown that it had an undersized tank (500-gallon tank) versus the required 1,500-gallon tank. The Board asked if we are required to do a Title V when property is being transferred to a family member? Chair Osley and Member Kugler said the law says no as long as you let the family

members know. Chair Osley asked do we charge for it? Vice Chair informed the Board that if it is being replaced, there will be a fee. It was agreed that this property will not be charged for the re-inspection as they already paid.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS:

ADJOURN

Vice Chair Zgodnik made a motion to adjourn at 4:29 p.m.; Member Kugler seconded, all in favor, aye, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant