

ERVING BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES – held at Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA

October 25, 2023 2:00PM

Present: Health Agent, Claudia Sarti; Jeffrey McAndrews, Chair; Leo Parent, Jr., Jay Niedbala.

Others: BOH Clerk, Betsy Sicard

Chairman Jeffrey McAndrews called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

Health Agent Update

5 West High Street

Claudia described the incidents of the court appearance that took place on Friday, October 19, 2023. She stated that the landlord, Daniel Willor, is not complying with the court order requiring him to pay for lodging and food for the displaced tenants. She expressed that there is a severe housing shortage and there is no place for this family to go. Jeff also reminded everyone that it is not the Board of Health's responsibility and that we need to let the court take care of it.

4 Lillians Way

Claudia described the complaint at 4 Lillians Way entailing mold under decking at the condominium, her inspection of the unit, the correction order that was issued and the actions taken to request repairs be made by the Northfield Meadows Condominium Association. A hearing has been scheduled for 3:00pm today as the Association is contesting the timeline of the correction order.

Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2023

The Board tabled the minutes until the November meeting.

Agriculture Bylaws Discussion

Claudia said that moving forward with a bylaw, the Town first needs to establish an Agricultural Commission. Jeff stated he would like to see Erving join another commission and the Select Board should appoint. Leo made a motion that the Board send a letter to the Select Board recommending the Town establish an Agricultural Commission, seconded by Jay. Vote: All in favor.

Animal Inspector Discussion

The Board agreed to table until the next meeting.

Health Agent Inspection Software

Jeff says that if the state is mandating that Boards all use the same software, then we should be reaching out to FRCOG (Franklin Regional Council of Governments) about what they are using. Claudia agreed to check-in with FRCOG.

Board of Health Rules and Regulations

The Board agreed to review the current Board of Health bylaws in future meetings and discuss updating.

Sharps Containers

Jeff would like a program to be set up at the Senior Center, Library, Town Hall for Sharp Containers. He will reach out to Health Nurse, Lisa White, to find out more. Betsy mentioned that the Franklin County Solid Waste Management System has sharps containers available for people to fill and return and they get a replacement container. Claudia indicated that there may be a state grant to help with the process of providing a Sharps Container Program.

Covid Home Tests

Betsy announced that the Covid home tests she ordered have arrived and some have already been distributed to the Erving Public Library and Erving Senior & Community Center. Jeff expressed that the way people are home-testing needs to be changed and that the State has made new testing recommendations. He mentioned that people are home-testing too soon after being exposed; testing should take place 5 days after exposure or when symptoms appear. He recommended waiting a month to monitor our supply of test kits and order more if it is warranted.

Mosquito Control District

The Board is unclear of the status currently. Betsy will check with Bryan.

IT Request to FRCOG

The Board discussed reaching out to FRCOG to fund the Board's laptops for all three (3) members to have full access.

PFAS Monitoring for Maple Avenue

The Board received a letter regarding the PFAS testing at the Maple Avenue Landfill and that the state automatically monitors and reports to the Board of Health

Training Status

Jeff informed the Board that he has almost completed the LPHI training for Board of Health members. Both Jeff and Claudia expressed that the training is very timely. Jeff has reached out to Senator Comerford to express his opinion that training is very difficult for volunteers to complete all the training. Jeff explained how it all works and how this came to be expected by the State. Jeff stated that it is good for the Board members to do the training and the PHI (Public Health Institute) training is valuable. Leo said he would benefit the most from in-person training.

CPHS Meeting at FRCOG

After a brief discussion, none of the Board members can attend.

FRCOG Fees

Leo would like to know what the FRCOG fees are. Claudia said that she would dig up that information for Leo.

Board of Health Fees

Jeff expressed to the Board that we need to review the fees that our local Board is charging for services that at this time, and to help balance the budget we should be increasing fees. The Board agreed to review the fee schedule in upcoming meetings.

Leo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00pm, seconded by Jay. Vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sicard

Betsy Sicard

Clerk

Town of Erving Board of Health