

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

September 27, 2023 2:00PM

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

Others: BOH Clerk, Betsy Sicard; Lisa White, Health Nurse

Chairman Jeffrey McAndrews called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

Health Nurse Update

Lisa White, Health Nurse, joined the Board. Lisa updated the Board on the foot clinic and that it is going well. She also noted that Senior Center Director, Paula Betters, is looking into the ‘Foot Care’ program in which they assess the needs of feet and nail care of seniors and that the program offers more than what is available with the current clinic and may prove beneficial to go forward with that program moving forward. Lisa spoke of the vaccination clinics that are coming up on October 26, 2023, at the Senior Center and on November 12, 2023 at the Erving Public Library. Lisa indicated that she and Meg Ryan will bring flu vaccines during their regularly scheduled hours they hold at the Erving Senior Center. She mentioned that they will try to find covid vaccines for people who want them, but they would like to focus on those who are homebound, who request the vaccine. Lisa informed the Board that there is a new formula by Moderna and Pfizer that is available for the new strain of covid.

Health Agent Update

French King Motor Inn Swimming Pool

Claudia gave the Board materials regarding public and semi-public swimming pool regulations. Regarding the French King Motor Inn and their current code violations, Jeff addressed his concerns regarding letting the family use the pool for a child’s birthday party as he was aware that it was not strictly family as Claudia had directed. Claudia explained what the state public health requirements were regarding public pools. Jeff suggested that perhaps during operation of the pool a certified pool operator be hired. Claudia indicated that there will be more conversation in the future with FK Motor Inn as the businessowner would like to comply and correct the violations by next spring.

Fall Festival Food Inspections

Jeff would like the Board to come up with a protocol for future event inspections. Other towns’ inspectors should not inspect out-of-town, one-day food vendors that work at our Town events; they should always be inspected by our own Health Agent.

Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2023

Leo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 7, 2023, as written, seconded by Jay. Vote: All in favor.

Agricultural Regulations Discussion

Claudia and the Board discussed the matter that Erving is not currently a Right-to-Farm community. They agreed that moving forward an Agricultural Commission should be established

and it should not be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health but rather the Select Board. Jeff suggested that perhaps we investigate joining another Agricultural Commission. Jeff asked Claudia to make a recommendation about the Agricultural Commission to the Select Board.

Animal Inspector Discussion

Jeff asked Claudia to come up with a job description for the Animal Inspector position for the Select Board.

Health Agent Inspection Software

FRCOG has funding to cover most or all the software expenses (including tablet or laptop for the health agent) for health inspections. The Board discussed the laptops that they are requesting from the Town with the capability to not only access emails and files, but also be able to attend the many training sessions that are being expected of the Boards of Health by the FRCOG.

The Board signed a letter addressed to Erving's IT Department requesting laptops for each member of the Board of Health.

Covid Home Tests

Jeff expressed that people are asking for home-test kits again as people are contracting the virus again. More specifically Abby Gaines, Library Director was asking as they give them out regularly at the library. Health Nurse Lisa said that families can order four (4) test kits per family at no cost. The Board discussed how many should be ordered for the Town Hall that can be shared with other Town facilities. Jeff raised the question about treatment for Covid. Lisa indicated that there are antivirals for those who need it. Lisa also has information for people as to when to take a test for Covid. She would like to offer guidance as people are not always testing properly. Lisa also wanted to mention to the Board that next year will be a more high-risk year for mosquito-borne illness EEE and that it is a fatal illness.

Board of Health Trainings

Jeff wanted to discuss the training that is now being required by the State, through FRCOG for Board of Health Members and Health Agents. He said that the training is time-consuming and that once a member starts training, the member has six (6) months to complete. He feels it is overwhelming. Leo expressed that he wants the training to be in-person, but Jeff and Claudia said that most of them are on-line trainings.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sicard

Betsy Sicard, Clerk

Town of Erving Board of Health