

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
Great Barrington, Massachusetts  
Via Zoom  
August 5th, 2021**

**Present:**

Michael Lanoue, Chairman  
Ruby Chang  
Peter Stanton, Vice Chair

Rebecca Jurczyk, Health Agent  
Ned Saviski, Health Inspector

**A. CALL TO ORDER: (Roll Call Vote) 6:36 pm**

**B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Discussion/ Vote) Approved **3-0**

**C. BUSINESS**

**1. Updates Related to Public Health and Housatonic Water Works.** Re-occurring agenda item, only new concerns and/or updates shall be shared. (Discussion)

Rebecca Jurczyk: We have not heard any complaints since our last board of Health meeting. There has been an increase in water sample kits that have been given out.

The update was covered in terms of the Housatonic Water Works assessment that the Select Board has authorized.

Preliminarily, the Town Manager has said that he will speak with the Select Board about future meetings specific to this topic to talk about next steps.

We're still awaiting a response from Deirdre Dougherty at DEP in regards to the engineering proposal submitted by Housatonic Water Works addressing manganese.

Michael Lanoue: We should discontinue this item as a recurring agenda item.

Ruby Chang: Agree now that the Select Board has taken over.

Eileen: Will the Health Board pay for the water testing?

Rebecca Jurczyk: Did not ask but we do not have the money in our budget this year.

**D. HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

- **Inspection Updates :** Business as normal

- **Glyphosate Moratorium :**

Rebecca Jurczyk: Waiting to hear whether the town Council should weigh in on this. Working on a draft based on what other towns have done but it is not ready for presentation. The main question is how a policy would be enforceable. We have jurisdiction only over town property.

We should vote on a policy in a public hearing on which way we decide to go with glyphosate. Gives everyone who has interest in this topic a chance to speak.

Extend an invitation to pertaining boards and commissions to the September meeting.

Michael Lanoue: If they want to just submit a letter that should be fine, or come to the meeting if they want. Our moratorium should have some language or mechanism should there be an issue with the Conservation Committee.

Rebecca Jurczyk: The draft has language with provisions allowed for variance.

Sari Hoy: Likes the idea that we have some way to make a decision on each individual site. Would like to submit other documents on glyphosate to review.

Rebecca Jurczyk: We're eliminating the Berkshire Hills Regional School District from town owned property as it is not town owned property. The town cemeteries are not on the list. All together there are about 21 locations on the list not including the

cemeteries.

- **Update on 232 Stockbridge Road:** The Town council has dismissed the housing case.
- **Other:** Five tic borne illnesses and four food borne illnesses reported in July.
- **Advertise our Code Red emergency alert system.** Would like everyone to be informed so we should get everyone signed up.  
Reviewed timeline of boil water order that recently occurred. The Fire District is their own company so it's on them to get boil water information out.

**E. COMMUNITY COVID-19:**

Rebecca Jurczyk: 10 reported cases in July. The first week of August we have 10 reported cases already. The town Covid calls have been reinstated now that numbers are spiking. The CDC's data mapping shows Berkshire County at a substantial transmission level.

Review of updated Massachusetts mask guidance which is in line with the CDC's guidance.

Would like the Board of Health to consider a public health advisory.

Michael Lanoue: Any of this information account for Congregate Care facilities and numbers.

Rebecca Jurczyk: Could be numbers from a facility in north County skewing the numbers.

Michael Lanoue: In favor of issuing a policy.

Ruby Chang: Vaccinated or not we are still at risk. We need to look at how to protect the employees and essential workers in town. Strongly agree. Reviewed CDC Mask guidance and thinks it should be mandatory.

Michael Lanoue: Cannot mandate this as it's not a state of emergency.

Peter Stanton: Would like to approve the language Rebecca Jurczyk suggested.

Rebecca Jurczyk: Reviewed the draft of a revised advisory to the community, strongly recommending masks inside regardless of vaccination status. If voted on we will send through the code red alert system.

Discussion regarding CDC categories.

Michael Lanoue: Fine to leave the language in there that we have. Read again and it can be motioned.

Rebecca Jurczyk: Read the proposed advisory

Peter Stanton: Motion to approve the language for public distribution

Ruby Chang: Second

Michael Lanoue: In agreement

Roll Call Vote (3-0)

**F. BOARD OF HEALTH QUESTIONS/ UPDATES:**

No questions or updates

**G. MEDIA QUESTIONS:**

Eileen Mooney: Are you all vaccinated?

Peter Stanton: Privacy concern – we should not answer but as the Board of Health we encourage people to get vaccinated.

Michael Lanoue: Agree with Peter

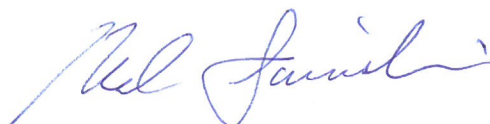
**H. ADJOURNMENT:**

Peter Stanton motioned to adjourn the August Meeting at 7:41 PM.

**Second:** Ruby Chang

(Roll Call Vote) 3-0

*Pursuant to MGL. Chapter 30A, Section 20 (e) (f), meetings of the Town of Great Barrington Board of Health are regularly recorded. Any member of the public wishing to speak at the meeting must receive permission of the Chair. The listing of agenda items is those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*



Approved 9/9/2021