

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Great Barrington, Massachusetts
Via Zoom
December 9th, 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 3-0) 6:41 pm

B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:
November 4th, 2021 (Discussion/ Vote) Approved 3-0

C. HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES:
Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk discussed late fees assessed in surrounding Berkshire County Towns. December 17th is the deadline for renewing permits for 2022 in Great Barrington. 2021 Permits expire December 31st, 2021.
Chair Michael Lanoue requested we add this as an agenda item in January.

D. Great Barrington Housing Authority Extension Requests:
Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk reviewed outstanding Correction Orders for Units 12 and 27. The Correction order for Unit 12 Bernard Gibbons Drive was issued on September 3rd, 2021. They have fully corrected all violations except one; the chronic moisture issue which does take time to eradicate.
The Correction Order for Unit 27 was issued on November 8th, 2021. The main complaint from resident was mold. At this point progress has not been made on this correction order. An email was received requesting a two week extension.
Chair Michael Lanoue suggested we grant an extension on these two Correction Orders, but would like to see communication from the Housing Authority. A formal letter or written request should be received within one week in order to issue a 30 day extension.
Request from the Board to hear any public comment. No comments were made.

Peter Stanton: Motion to provide extension conditional on receiving a letter from the Housing Authority.

Ruby Chang: Second

Michael Lanoue: In agreement
(Roll Call Vote) 3-0

E. HOUSING PUBLIC HEARING:

Cynthia McCallister, 52 River Street, Great Barrington. To appeal a Correction Order that was issued to Ms. McCallister; the property owner, following the Health Department inspection of 54 River Street, Unit 1 & Unit 2.

Peter Stanton: Motion to Open the Public Hearing

Ruby Chang: Second

Michael Lanoue: In agreement
(Roll Call Vote) 3-0

Chair Michael Lanoue recommended a re-inspection since the entire Correction Order is being contested.

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk reviewed the timeline of events starting with the initial complaint, and findings listed on the Correction Orders. One of the two units (Unit 1) has since been vacated so that

deadline can be on hold until that unit is re-occupied, if it is.

Cynthia McCallister, 52 River Street, Great Barrington: Reviewed the process she went through with purchasing the house, and notifications given to the Tenants. Cynthia discussed her disagreement with the Correction Order and what steps she took to address the findings on the Correction Order.

Chair Michael Lanoue suggested we re-inspect both units. Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk mentioned there is no deadline now on the unoccupied unit. Cynthia is now occupying the vacant unit and agreed to allow a re-inspection in the vacated unit.

Chair Michael Lanoue requested we move to public comment.

Nan Wiles: Was present at the residence as a friend showing neighborly kindness. In no way was she officially representing the tenant.

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk requested to the Board that a hold be put on the Unit 1 Correction Order until the Unit is re-occupied by anyone other than the owner.

Agreed with Miss McCallister to re-inspect on December 21st, 2021 unless an earlier date can be established.

Peter Stanton: Motion to close the Public Hearing

Ruby Chang: Second

Michael Lanoue: In agreement

(Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

Peter Stanton: Motion to put a hold on Correction Order for Unit 1

Ruby Chang: Second

Michael Lanoue: In agreement

(Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

Peter Stanton: Motion to re-open Public Hearing

Ruby Chang: Second

Michael Lanoue: In agreement

(Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

Peter Stanton: Motion to continue the Public Hearing to January 6th, 2022

Ruby Chang: Second

Michael Lanoue: In agreement

(Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

F. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING:

To discuss and vote upon enacting a Moratorium on the use of Glyphosate containing herbicides on town owned and/or managed lands for a minimum of one year.

Peter Stanton: Motion to continue the Public Hearing related to Glyphosate

Ruby Chang: Second

Michael Lanoue: In agreement

(Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk reviewed the moratorium language and intent draft with the Board and made edits.

Public Comments: Tom Zetterstrom, Commented on the application form. Suggested looking at State and surrounding town's guidelines and regulations. Give some of the people who employ herbicide applications to define what makes logical sense for Great Barrington.

Nan Wiles: Two suggestions: 1. The Board of Health should do outreach to abutters. 2. Businesses submitting the applications would like a courteous response from the Board of Health.

Andrea Panaritis, 30 Seekonk Road: Commends the Board for moving in this direction. Also a Bee Keeper. Discussed flowering periods of plants, limiting applications to times when pollinators are not so active, and inform Beekeepers of when applications are taking place as bees tend to travel beyond property abutters.

Vivian Orlofsky: Discussed how pollinators are effected by glyphosate. We need to provide recent information, like how the bee's internal systems react to glyphosate.

Tom Zetterstrom, prior comments he made were about previous meetings. The question is will the town be responsible for invasive plants? Environmental management is complex but the benefits outweigh the costs.

Board members Peter and Ruby would like to know which species are being sprayed. Board Chair Michael Lanoue would like this question added to the application form for educational purposes. Tom Zetterstrom: Outreach and education of management of invasive plants is what he does. He will drop off brochures to the Board of Health.

Peter Stanton: Motion to approve the edits made to the Moratorium on Glyphosate
Ruby Chang: Second
Michael Lanoue: In agreement
(Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

Peter Stanton: Motion to close the Public Hearing
Ruby Chang: Second
Michael Lanoue: In agreement
(Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

G. BHRSD LETTER TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH:

Requesting a decision from the Local Board of Health on implementing a policy on the COVID-19 Vaccination for School aged children.

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk: The Superintendent for BHRSD, Peter Dillion reached out to the Board of Health seeking an agenda item on discussion and requiring a vaccination for school aged children, and add the Covid Vaccine to the list of required vaccinations. The Board is being asked to support this.

The School Committee was not present or represented at the meeting tonight.

The Board discussed issues with having a mandate and that there is a lack of good evidence or data. A strong advisory can be made to the town. Strong recommendations should still be in place and we still have to take precautions. It's Premature to say anything definitively as there is little known.

Discussion by Board members about pros and cons of a mandate, updating local advisory and having a special meeting in the following week to finalize response to the School Committee.

Peter Stanton: Motion to have the Health Agent respond to the School Committee
Ruby Chang: Second
Michael Lanoue: In agreement
(Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

H. COMMUNITY COVID-19:

- Health Dept. Review: Community Covid-19 discussion on the total cases in November was 56. Discussed positivity rater, hospitalizations and seriousness of illnesses. The picture does not look good. On track to have a similar track as last year. Health Agent feels we need to have stronger language in our advisory.
Discussed Vaccine Clinics in the Berkshires.
- **Public Health Advisory:** Advisory will be discussed at a special meeting to review and update the Public Health Advisory.


I. BOARD OF HEALTH QUESTIONS/ UPDATES: None

J. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME: None

K. MEDIA QUESTIONS: None

K. ADJOURNMENT: (Roll Call Vote) **3-0 9:42pm**

Respectfully submitted:


Ned Saviski
Health Inspector