

Charlemont Board of Health Minutes
November 26, 2019
Charlemont Town Hall

Present: Doug Telling, Bill Harker
Absent: Rob Lingle
Guests: Greg Lewis

Called to order at 3:00 pm

--Greg Lewis asked if the board thought it should be involved in emergency preparedness. Telling responded that it should, but training and practice are needed and it is hard to develop the skills with volunteer, term-limited people.

--In the case of weather events, how and when can the board of health be involved? Telling thought it could, depending on the nature of the emergency. Harker wondered about people not on the board, but associated with it, and get them trained. Telling and Harker supported training organized regionally. Lewis said MAPHCO could generate a memo listing trainings. Telling suggested dividing the trainings among the board members who could then report back to the full board what was covered.

--Lewis introduced non-pharmaceutical interventions in cases of emergencies. He asked the role of the board in announcing precautions (such as how people should take precautions given a EEE outbreak). Telling commented that the town uses a reverse 911 system, but that goes through the chair of the select board. Lewis asked about including in discussions community groups such as Berkshire East and Zoar Outdoors. Telling and Harker said those companies will co-operate and collaborate with the town. For example, Berkshire East has EMT's who would be available if needed.

--Lewis switched from his role at FRCOG to his role at the Pioneer Valley Mosquito District formed in 2017. The district is a state entity.

-one breed of mosquito breeds in hardwood swamps. This breed will bite birds but not humans. Another breed will bite infected birds and this breed will bite humans. The program traps weekly and tests all the mosquitoes. It will inform the town if any are positive and assist the town in issuing information on how town folk can protect themselves. Eventually it will be able to apply bacteria in the swamps to keep the mosquito population down. Spraying will be done only at the request of a town. Both of these are at additional cost. The annual cost is \$5000, which is below cost. To join and continue membership requires a town meeting vote.

Telling moved and Harker seconded a motion to approve minutes from 10/23/19 passed 2-0

Harker moved and Telling seconded a motion to adjourn. Passed 2-0

Adjourned at 5:30

The minutes are not official until signed

Documents Reviewed
11/26/19

- Agenda 11/26/19
- Minutes 10/23/19
- Handout on preparing for public health emergencies
- Handout on non-pharmaceutical interventions
- Handout on the mosquito district