

Charlemont Board of Health Minutes  
January 26, 2022  
Zoom

Present: Doug Telling, Rob Lingle, Mae Tanner  
Guests: Randy Crochier, Kurt Schellenberg

Called to order 6:05 pm

--Tanner moved to approve the minutes of 10/6/21, 10/27/21, 11/5/21, 1/11/22 Telling seconded approved 2-0

--Telling noted that Sarah Reynolds is working on a monthly newsletter and Tanner is interested in an email list

--Tanner noted that she uses in her non-profit a free email system that can be used to build a list for communicating health updates and links, such as those from FRCOG.

--Schellenberg asked if it includes a spam filter. Tanner, yes

--Tanner said people opt into the system

--Crochier suggests working with the town administrator and select board.

--Telling warns that pushback will come from ongoing maintenance of the list.

--Lingle asked about vetting the quality of the information.

--Crochier thought this list might be able to migrate into an email list created by the town. He added that Maureen O'Reilly and the nurses will be interested in providing information for this and for the newsletter.

--Tanner said she was looking for a way for quick updates to be communicated to the public. She will contact S. Reynolds.

--Health agent report

- Budget: dealing with loss of Deerfield. Schellenberg is working on a grant as a source of new income. FRCOG voted to give a 6% cost of living increase to employees which raised the town assessments slightly.
- Since 12/1 there have been 26 permit renewals submitted
- There have been 116 COVID cases in the system, 61 of them since 12/1. Numbers appear to be decreasing.
- Berkshire East septic proposal is under review. Concerns about disparate flow rates between Main Lodge/Crazy Horse and West Lodge.
- Lingle asked what the nurses have been working on other than contact tracing and vaccination clinics? Have not maintained hours in town.
- Telling noted that the Federated Church has been closed, but now is open to nurses coming in for the food distributions and the second Tuesday hours.
- Crochier noted that they are now trained to administer rapid tests and are able to do them for town employees as an attempt to keep the government open.
- Schellenberg is working on food permits and various housing issues

--Schellenberg on short term rentals

- Rentals need inspections for water, septic adequacy, food safety if offering food, smoke and CO alarms, environmental issues like bed bugs, and pool/spa requirements.
- Lingle asked if there are a set of short term rental standards.
- Schellenberg replied that we inspect for the housing code and requirements for a district permit. A \$75 fee and evidence of well water testing every three years, and a sanitation review.
- From 1/2020-1/2022 a 77% increase in the number of short term rental properties in the district. Charlemont has received \$20,319 in room tax revenue through the last third of this fiscal year

--Tanner asked who the ambulance crew should contact when they identify housing problems.

--Crochier replied a health agent if the issue is hoarding or a real mess or a nurse if a nurse can be helpful

--Telling asked for items for the town newsletter

- Nurses schedule
- Vaccine mobile vaccination clinics schedule

Lingle moved and Telling seconded a motion to adjourn passed 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm

These minutes are not official until signed.

Documents Reviewed

- Agenda 1/26/22
- Minutes 10/6/21, 10/27/21, 11/5/21, 1/11/22