

Stockbridge Board of Health Meeting

March 2, 2020

Draft Minutes

Present: Charles Kenny, Henry Schwerner, Rae Williams, Jim Wilusz(Tri-Town Health Dept.)
In attendance for Public Hearing: Austin Riggs Nurse Cheryl Puntil

Meeting Called to order by Chairman Kenny at 10 AM

1. Chairman Kenny asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/22/2020 .Motion was made and the above minutes was approved.
2. Age Friendly Berkshires- Rae Williams made a presentation about this topic.
It is known that our population is aging and a healthy aging report was reviewed for the State of Massachusetts. Massachusetts is rated the 4th healthiest state. It was noted that in the western part of the state there is an increased prevalence of dementia.
A study from The University of North Carolina about Mecklenburg County's aging population was presented. This study looked at Housing and Accessibility, Health and Wellness, and Education and Advocacy and it was suggested that this could be done for Stockbridge.
Resources were discussed including Peg McDonough from Pittsfield, a AARP questionnaire and an Age Friendly Berkshires study which has been done in the past that can be utilized to further information about this topic. Followup will be done and presented to our Board.
3. Porchlight Updates- Jim Wilusz has met with the Porchlight CEO and discussed miscommunications from this VNA service. It appears we are now on the same page. Their information will be sent to Tri-Town and forwarded on to our Board of Health.
4. FY20 CDBG Letter of Support-Chairman Kenny has sent a letter about FY20 Community Development Block Grant Application re: Dalton, Sheffield, Becket and Stockbridge to the Department of Housing and Community Development in Boston. The letter gives strong support for the grant application to develop housing rehabilitation for the above towns noting 43.1% of Stockbridge residents are considered to be of low to moderate income. These grants would help fund housing rehabilitation for our vulnerable populations and encourage safe and healthier communities.
5. Cyanobacteria Reports/Membership Updates-The working group did testing for Cyanobacteria last year which was positive at deep areas of the Bowl. No bloom developed last year. Controlled harvesting did take place last year secondary to our experts supervision. Sewer and Water has not shown up at the Cyanobacteria Prevention Working Group meetings and Denny Alsop will be asked to replace Sewer and Water on the group. There is a new Stockbridge Bowl Surveillance Committee and it will be important that duplication of efforts does not take place. The Cyanobacteria Group will meet once a month going forward.
6. Mosquito Control Letter-We received a letter from Christopher Horton which was not specific or useful for Stockbridge. We met with Mr. Horton last year and he was unable to give us specific information about Mosquito spraying in Stockbridge. We will invite him again to our next meeting and possibly give a report of this issue at our next Town Meeting. There has been only one case of Mosquito related disease (i.e. EEE, West Nile Virus); West Nile Virus in Berkshire County in 2012. Neighboring town do not spray for Mosquitos.
7. Tri-Town Updates-The budget for Tri-Town has been completed. Jim Wilusz has sent out emails about Covid-19 Virus and directed us to [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) and the CDC's web sites. Austin

Riggs is concerned about Covid-19 and the board suggested that they use their influenza protocols and build on this protocol as new information comes out. A public Tri-Town Meeting will be set up to discuss reasonable concerns about Covid-19. The Board will also set up a public meeting to discuss these concerns. Board members will seek further information as this become available. Jim distributed a draft of issues concerning natural disasters and the Stockbridge Board of Health.

8. Implementation/methodology on Regulations-Rebekah Lacey from our towns legal department will send recommendations to the board about our newly developed Stockbridge Bowl policy. These will be sent to Chairman Kenny and he will distribute these recommendations to the board for feedback. Discussions of these recommendations will be at our next meeting.

Minutes prepared by Henry Schwerner

cc: Stockbridge Board of Health Members, Jim Wilusz(Tri-Town Health Dept.), Stockbridge Town Clerk, Stockbridge Town Administrator, Stockbridge Select Board