

PERU BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Monday July 10, 2023, 10:00 AM

Community Room 3 E Main Rd

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM
2. Roll call: present Peggy White, Nanette Mone, Darryl Darby and Valerie ~~Byrd~~ ^{BIRD} Health Agent. Also present were Bonny DiTomasso, Jim Kenney and Bruce Cullett.
3. Nanette recording.
4. Con Comm request: Mike Frederics had emailed Peggy. He would like to be made aware of any perc tests being done. Valerie stated that she usually contacts them when it involves wetland etc. But Mike prefers to be told about all perc tests. **VALERIE AGREED.**
5. Review and approve minutes from 5/15/2023 and 6/12/2023. There was a correction to item 5 of the 5/15 minutes. At that meeting it was stated, through a conversation Ed had with them, that Eagle Eye Institute was not a camp and had no overnight operations. Thus, no BOH permit was needed. A motion was made to hold approval until the edit was made. All in favor. Also, Peggy requested that an additional statement to show context on item 10 be added to the 6/12 minutes. Peggy and Darryl had attended a zoom meeting about how to run a public hearing which included an introductory statement that Peggy said regarding the duty and authority of the BOH. A motion was made to hold approval until the edit was made. All in favor.
6. Valerie's report has 2 items. First, that 127 E. Windsor Road is completed. Ed inspected signed off and sent their certificate. Second item is 7 below.
7. Review and discuss 4 North Rd. septic design. The owners are asking for a variance. The new septic field will be 69 feet from their water supply. The new 1,500 gal. tank will be downhill from the well. It will be 160 feet from the well at 1 E. Main Rd. and 85 feet from 6 North Rd. water supply, the two abutters. While the distance is not 100 feet, the lot is very small and the new system is a big improvement from the existing system which is a 4-inch sewer pipe to a 55-gal drum that is partly in the ground. And has to be pumped, cleaned and removed. Valerie said that this variance is not unusual for small parcels. A motion was made to accept the variance with the stipulation that there be a base line water test and then tested annually for 5 years. All in favor.
8. Private well regulation update. Ed agreed to give the board a draft of the public notice needed but we did not receive it yet. Valerie said she would get the draft from Ed and email the board members. Once in hand, Darryl will check with Berkshire Eagle website to estimate the cost to publish the notice. Valerie will check with other towns who might have conducted a public hearing. Nanette said that Ed didn't give a date when the draft would be ready; Darryl said he is waiting to get a sense of how it will read.
9. Rural Heath Equity grant update. A) The money is in the account for the next gas card giveaway. Peggy thought that August would be a good time due to extra expense for school. Also, she talked to Coralie about a third giveaway at Christmas time when the church delivers baskets to 12 or more residents. The board decided on Saturday 08/19/2023 for the 2nd giveaway; Nanette will be at the compactor from 10AM to 12PM. Peggy will set up the notice board and do the advertising in the live wire and on the town website. B) Nanette spoke to Doreen Black who still wants to conduct the Tai-chi classes for 8 weeks. The board wants to do 4 weeks to see if the attendance is enough to warrant

the extra 4 weeks. Doreen said that if she does 4 weeks, she wants to be paid \$125 per hour. Nanette told her that Rima did the seated yoga for \$75 an hour. Doreen said "you can get anybody to tell people to raise their arms." Doreen wants to discuss with the participants about the mind-body connection and explain Tia-chi. If we don't want to do it that way, then we don't want her. Peggy said it raises a red flag that it could be difficult to work with her. We could get almost double the sessions with Rima at half the cost. The board agreed that Peggy reach out to Rima to see what her schedule is to maybe set up a different time to accommodate different schedules of residents. C) Jamie Zapatta emailed Peggy requesting an accounting of the monies spent from the grant. She sent Peggy a form to fill out by 6/22/23. Peggy read out the various questions on the form, such as how much was spent as of 5/30, what for, if not all spent what plans to do so, how many people served and what experience it was to work with the grant. Peggy thought it would be good to have more guidance for some ideas. Darryl said that people were appreciative and some were reluctant to take a card in case someone needed it more. Peggy will talk to Terry to get the balance in the account. Depending on the monies, Nanette suggested increasing the number of cards for the 3rd time; Peggy thought we might be able to do grocery cards. Peggy will fill out form. Jamie asked that we consolidate requests, so that we need to decide what can be done and then put in one request.


10. Discussion of trailers use on private property was intended for the board as a starting point, looking for ideas. Peggy was unable find much beyond general housing mentioning that RVs should be in a structure or screened from view. Valerie said that 105 CMR410.440 deals with the temporary housing code. If a camper trailer is not self-contained, 30 days is the max it can be lived in, but they must show the board of health where they are getting their water supply and how they are handling waste. Pumping records will have to be shown. They will need a permit from the BOH. Similarly, If the camper is self-contained, they can live there not to exceed 90 days. The BOH will also have to be satisfied as to disposal of waste and water. A permit is needed in that case also. If necessary, they can come before the BOH and reapply for another permit. Charlie and Phyllis Goyette arrived to continue their complaint about several campers on property across from them, at 30 North Rd. Previously Ed Fahey had inspected the situation and determined that they were not in violation of the BOH concerns, which are septic and well issues within the jurisdiction of the BOH. The Goyettes are not satisfied claiming that the neighbors have been there since May, and in the whole time there about two years, the holding tanks have been emptied only once, Phyllis stating that she is home all the time and knows that to be true. Valerie will contact the building inspector, as he is the zoning enforcer, to arrange for both to inspect the 30 North Rd. property again. She will send the property owner (and the lien holder if there is one) a certified and a regular letter of inspection giving them about 2 weeks to respond. Possibly this could be considered a family campground; a permit would still be needed, just a different one. There was a lively discussion as to whether a written complaint is needed since the Goyettes were present at the meeting. Nanette said it was necessary, Peggy & Valerie said no. Bruce spoke up saying that there is already a written complaint on file with the Select Board. There followed a long discussion on various related topics. Jim wanted to thank Jesse for bringing this issue to the BOH (as in a previous case). Mentioned were regulations regarding recreational vehicle licensing by the Registry of Motor Vehicles and what those vehicles constituted; whether campers come under the "junk" vehicle bylaw in Peru. Bruce said the BOS is looking into what can or should be done. Also discussed were issues related to condemning or declaring a property uninhabitable if the owner refuses to remedy a situation or cannot. This is a long legal process, although the BOH can condemn a property if it is considered unsafe, particularly if vacant.

Bonnie asked if the BOH is mandated to report situations particularly where seniors are at risk. Valerie said that the board members do not go into the field so the answer is no. Peggy reiterated that a lot of the regulations would have to come from other of the boards as, again, it is outside the BOH jurisdiction. Nanette questioned the difference between "condemning" a property and declaring it uninhabitable, saying that Ed Fahey had made a distinction, but Valerie sees it as a matter of semantics. Even if condemned, a property can be brought back with correction of the issues. Valerie mentioned a case where the owner decided it was too much trouble to try to correct the issues (also there was no heat which is necessary after Sept 15), even though the property encompassed 6 or 7 acres. Valerie said it was better for her to have office hours on Monday when the town hall is open and she can coordinate with the bldg. inspector. She asked if that would be ok for us. She would still come to BOH meetings in the morning. We said that would be fine.

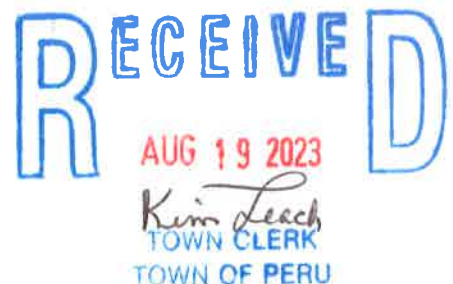
11. Vaccine clinic for Peru be in September maybe the 23rd or 24th. Peggy will reach out to Leslie to set the date. It depends on when the vaccine comes; maybe the covid booster will be available as well. We will do the advertising.
12. The next meeting will be on August 14th. At first Peggy thought we should convene on the 7th since the complaint needs to be resolved sooner than later. But Valerie needs time for her letters to be received and responded to.
13. The agenda for the meeting are approving the minutes from 5/15, 6/12 and 7/10; follow-up on 30 North Rd.; Rural Health Equity as regards balance in fund and whether Rima can do more sessions; Health inspector's report; public hearing draft; Peggy's reminder to Terry regarding town counsel and update on the flu clinic.
14. A motion was made to adjourn at 11:42AM. All in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted as a draft by Nanette Mone 08/13/2023

Nanette Mone 

Peggy White 

Darryl Darby 



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