

PERU BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Monday January 24, 2023, 10:00 AM

Community Room 3 E Main Rd

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:12 AM
2. Roll call: present Nanette Mone, Peggy White and Darryl Darby.
3. Nanette recording.
4. A motion was made to approve minutes from 12/19/2022 after adding Darryl's tasks. All in favor.
5. Discussion of food insecurity with Sonya Butler of the Hinsdale Food Pantry. As a Peru resident Sonya had seen the survey the BOH had mailed out which identified "food" as a top concern. She said it makes sense to coordinate efforts since the Hinsdale pantry has all permits in place and has electricity, phone and refrigeration. Sonya said that about 65 families use the pantry. Of that number about half are from Peru. They have a shed on the property owned by the Hinsdale Trading Center and there is no way to know when that will end as the property is up for sale. They get food from Berkshire Bounty and they buy some food. They have a contract with Highlawn Farm to provide milk. They get some grant money and contributions from the community and businesses. Peggy doesn't think it is the job of the Board of Health to run a food pantry and the staff is not available. Peru would have to duplicate everything that the Hinsdale pantry has already done. Furthermore, Sonya said that Peru residents are welcome. At this time, with limited storage the Hinsdale pantry could not handle an increase of clients. After further discussion, the Peru BOH decided not to advertise until Hinsdale pantry increases its' storage capacity. Peggy will remain in contact with Sonya as the situation warrants. Nanette will contact Jamie from whom we got monies to send out the survey. As an aside, there is a grant in process for a mobile food truck.
6. Mini grant update: Darryl will email Laura Kittross of the BPHA about realistic use of the funds and asking what other towns are doing. Peggy has previously spoken to the accountant and the treasurer so we are already ready to accept the check which is how the money is disbursed. A couple of ideas were for tick removers and lights for walkers. Darryl will fill out the paperwork and send it in for approval once the board has decided what to purchase.
7. Follow up on rural health equity grant: Nanette spoke with Jamie who is willing to help set up when we decide what project to do. The biggest response was to the transportation issue. Jamie said she is still holding the funds for us. We could use the money for gas cards for those in need. Peggy talked to Leslie Drager who is willing to conduct a fall safety risk program which is free to the town as part of the contract. Also, Peggy will contact a friend to see if she would instruct a class in seated exercises/ seated yoga. The cost is \$75.00 an hour. Jamie said that was reasonable. Another thought is purchasing CD's so people can continue exercises at home. With regard to gas cards, it will be hard to assess need and to decide on the best way to accomplish distribution which would be hard to police if anonymous. We might hire a fitness instructor but the funds are limited so we will have to see what develops. Peggy said it is a lot to coordinate. Nanette will call Jamie for more ideas and to find out what amount we can spend.
8. Private well regulation update: Nanette asked that a couple changes be made to the draft. Peggy will email Ed and then the next draft should be the one that the board will approve. Peggy wanted to vote pending the few changes, but Nanette preferred to wait for the final copy which Darryl said

sounded good. The next steps will include informing the BOS, and getting approval from town council, preparing for a public hearing and notification in the Berkshire Eagle etals. Ed has agreed to help the board through this process.

9. Peggy mentioned the new covid variant and that the DPH continues to encourage residents to get the bivalent vaccine. We have received more test kits, available at the town clerks' office and at the transfer station. On a hopeful note, flu cases have dropped as well as RSV cases. Peggy gave a report about the alliance governing board items in progress: a Public Health Excellence grant, training for the new housing code and a USDA food grant for home delivery to name a few.
10. Ed emailed Peggy that the owner of 36 South Rd. has agreed to the boards' requirements for the temporary housing permit. It will be on the net agenda for final approval. Ed sent out another email letting the board know that the inspectional services cost for this year is increasing by \$440.00. That will also be on the next agenda for a vote of support to be sent to the BOS.
11. The next meeting is set for February 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM. The agenda will include Ed's report, mini grant update, update on Rural Health Equity grant and well regulation continuing discussion.
12. A motion to adjourn was made at 12:17 PM. All in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted as a draft by Nanette Mone 02/26/2023

Approved 3/13/23

Nanette Mone _____

Peggy White _____

Darryl Darby _____

