

PERU BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday December 12, 2023, 10:30 AM

Community Room 3 E Main Rd

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:33 AM
2. Roll call: present Peggy White, Nanette Mone, Darryl Darby and Valerie Bird Health Agent.
3. Nanette recording.
4. Review minutes from 11/14/2023. Peggy said she had a memory issue. She thought that, with regard to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), that the schools conducted their survey every 2 years anyway and that the Youth Prevention group tapped into the data, that they did not conduct the survey themselves. The other board members did not recall Laura saying one way or the other. Peggy thought it did not make a material difference. A motion was made to approve the 12/12/2023 minutes. All in favor.
5. In furtherance of the ongoing issue regarding travel trailers on private property and the pursuit of a bylaw by the BOH to put certain requirements in place, Peggy asked if we could at this point, let Jim Kenney say his piece. Then, the board can set a plan to involve the planning board and the selectmen in the process. Peggy and Jim spoke about Sam Haupt's reluctance to take on the bylaw issue, saying he is busy, saying it was "inappropriate" to bring to town meeting and that he has not heard from the BOS that they are going to pursue this issue. Peggy said she was confused because she thought that the bylaw could only be passed at the annual town meeting. Valerie said that this could be done by petition. Jim said we could look at other towns' bylaws and "cherry pick" what the board would like to include for Peru and as a member of the Conservation Commission, Jim would lend his support to pursuing a bylaw on travel trailers. It was decided that Peggy and Valerie would attend the BOS meeting on 12/26/2023 to explain the concerns of the BOH and to get their support. Peggy will write a letter stating the reasons for moving forward. She will email the selectmen the letter and request the issue be placed on their agenda. The BOH does not want to ban the campers, but wants people to act responsibly vis a vis health issues.
6. Discuss 16 Lafayette Dr.; is part of Valerie's report. Originally no one signed off on the septic. It has since been rebuilt and Valerie has signed off on it.
7. Review BOH confidentiality policy. Nanette mentioned that Laura said HIPAA would not apply to BOH as we do not treat anyone. Peggy said it was somewhat irrelevant but the board might still have to protect medical information such as in the case of infectious diseases. Nanette said however that MA laws are cited and that we do not know the extent of what we are being asked to sign. Nanette insists that the board is being asked to "sign blind" to "all relevant state and federal laws and regulations concerning the protection of confidential information"; that we don't know the consequences, the requirements (of keeping things out of the minutes, so when & how could the board speak of these items with OML rules) nor do we have any idea of the penalties. Peggy said that we made an oath to serve the town. Nanette said yes and we do. But the policy is not specific. Any law that is not specific is unconstitutional. Darryl said it's a reminder to be careful. Valerie asked if the Alliance required this; Peggy said no but that they recommended it. Peggy said that 2 members are ok with adopting the policy and said "I don't think your concerns are shared". However, the issue was left until the next meeting to give Nanette more time to do more research.

8. With regard to the NIMS and ICS training, Peggy asked whether Nanette and Darryl had made progress. Nanette said she has been working a lot of extra hours and will be able to start the programs when back to her normal schedule. Darryl said he has started the training but it slow going and harder than he expected. Peggy asked if it was reasonable to put a deadline on finishing to the March meeting. She said it was just chain of command and handling emergencies in an organized manner. She said that Darryl & Nanette can't participate in the command center if not trained. Should there be an emergency, she and Valerie could report to Bruce. Peggy said we will wait until training is complete to ask Bruce to a meeting to explain the emergency management protocols.
9. With regard to the Rural Equity grant, Peggy submitted the last request for funds and Jaymie has signed it. Peggy will pick up the check at the Alliance, bring it to Caryn, purchase the gift certificates and give them to Coralie to distribute with the church baskets this coming weekend. Also, Coralie asked for covid test kits for each family. The church has 14 families and Vern has one family who wishes to remain anonymous. On another note, Peggy said it is interesting that Sonya at the Hinsdale food pantry said she preferred that the remaining funds from the grant go to Berkshire Bounty so the board will leave it to Jaymie to handle. Also, Peggy ordered more covid test kits; she gave some to Dalton at their request. Peru still has 2 cartons each containing 36 boxes of 5 kits per. The kits expire in January, so it was better to give some to Dalton before that happens.
10. Valerie said that most of the towns are using the 2023 fee schedule recommended by the Alliance. Darryl thinks we should all use the same fees. Valerie said the changes would be starting July 1, 2024. Peggy asked, if we accept the Alliance fees, could we adopt to automatically accept any changes. The board agreed to table the issue until the February meeting.
11. Regarding the Narcan training, Peggy did the standup board and will have a public announcement in the Berkshire Eagle that the training is open to anyone. Peggy reached out to Jesse, fire chief, about announcing a time for the CPR training, but has no answer yet. Nick Simonds, of the Harm Reduction program, has agreed to conduct the class on 01/17/2024 at 6PM at the community room.
12. Update on well regulations, Peggy finally received the comments back from the town counsel. He thought he had sent them out long before. Peggy said she didn't understand the stickie note attached by counsel referencing various laws, which we will need clarified especially since the board adopted the state recommendations without many changes. Darryl said this throws a "monkey wrench" into things. Nanette said it looks like the board will have to spend a lot more time on this than anticipated. Peggy asked Valerie if she can assist the board. Valerie will ask Ed Fahey to help also.
13. The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024 at 10:00 AM. The agenda will include the Health Inspector's report, review and approve the minutes from 12/12/2023, review the confidentiality policy, review fee schedule and/or well regulation update.
14. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 AM. All in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted as a draft by Nanette Mone 12/31/2023.

Nanette Mone _____

Peggy White

Darryl Darby

* approved with notation that relevant discussion in favor of confidentiality policy was omitted

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2024

Karen Leah
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU