

PERU BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Monday September 13, 2021, 10:00 AM

Community Room 3 E Main Rd

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM
2. Roll call: present Nanette Mone, Peggy White, Darryl Darby and Ed Fahey.
3. Nanette recording.
4. The minutes from the previous meeting 8/09/2021 were reviewed and a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, all in favor. Nanette abstained; was not present on 8/9.
5. Ed Fahey's report was read off his August log and is attached. Also discussed was the assessor's inquiry about the Eagle Eye Institute in Peru. There was a question whether their activity meets the definition of a recreational camp which would then require permitting and other BOH oversight. Ed said that the Alliance had looked into the matter and found that the boy's & girls' club of Holyoke held day activities with no overnight stays. Also, no food is served, they bring their own water & supplies, the counselors are all licensed and it is more like a field trip. BOH concluded that no permit is required. Eagle Eye had asked for a tax rebate; Ed will talk to the assessor. Darryl asked if there was a sanican as there is only a small shed on the grounds to his knowledge. Ed will check with Eagle Eye.

Kim Leach attended with a complaint from Mary & Sue Morrison about mold in the community room against the rear & side walls and in the soap dish in the kitchen. She wanted to get Ed's opinion on the possible danger of being in the building & breathing the mold. Ed said that there are thousands of molds and most are not toxic. He recommended that bleach not be used to clean the mold; rather soap and water will remove it just fine. In the summer there is mold outdoors too sometimes with higher counts than indoors. Darryl said that there is a drain problem in the roof that is a contributing factor. Nanette said that the BOS is in the process of conducting an assessment of the whole building. Peru currently uses the services of a professional cleaning company and they could easily clean the mold; the files & tables need to be moved away from the walls and a dehumidifier should be used. The mold will be reduced with the changing season. Also, there is a paint that can be applied to the walls to reduce mold. Ed said we should keep an eye on the situation; if the mold continues to form, we may need to test it as to type. An email with BOH recommendations was sent to the select board.

6. Regarding the procedure when a house becomes or is uninhabitable. A couple of items were discussed. Denise Shaw emailed Peggy that there is a porta potty on their property at 127 E. Windsor Rd. due to the complete failure of their septic system. Denise wanted to let the BOH know that they are pursuing a grant from the Hilltown CDC but that it is a race against time to get everything in place before winter. The damaged mobile home of theirs on a separate property was discussed but no one goes into the building and it is a rural setting, so it was decided that BOH would not take action unless there is a complaint. Also, mention was made of the State program to fix houses but Ed said that the idea is that the state takes over abandoned or derelict buildings, repairs them and then sells them, essentially it seems not to help the owners. Peggy mentioned the white house on Middefield Road. Nanette said that the BOS is aware but there are issues, one being ownership & size of the property, It is believed that the fire department no longer is allowed to do practice burns. Last there was mention of the Avery house that was brought to BOH attention by Darryl's wife when a new

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furnace was installed by her company. Elder Services and BCAC are involved to help the resident remain in her home, Ed said that their focus is on helping the persons whereas BOH focus is on the structure. BOH need not intervene at this time.

7. Hogweed update. Peggy will reach out to Jennifer again. Ed said that he has done all he can to put Jennifer in touch with the owner at 55 E. Windsor but that she seems to be reluctant to do so. If there is an issue of language, we can get a translator. Every email comes back with another question or excuse. Ed said Jennifer needs to do the job she promised. Peggy said it is late in the season again(!) and unfortunately, we will have to address this once more in the spring. It has been several years since Jennifer brought this eradication program to our attention. Ed said the owner doesn't have hesitation but Jennifer has not followed through. Nanette said she will try to reach out to the program personnel.
8. Water testing follow-up: The testing is done and the water is ok, Darryl said. They will run the water more and keep ground seepage out. With regard to the PFA program, the state has found only a few interested residents and many back out when they see the application. Peggy said that the problem with it is that there is no financial help if PFA's are found. The cost for a filter is around \$300, but a whole house fix could be as high as \$3,000. If the safe level is exceeded the BOH is notified then takes action.
9. Covid 19 update: BMC has 8 to 12 patients most of whom are not vaccinated, this includes the deaths. Peru has had a total of 12 cases since the start. Daily cases are up to 25 to 30 although Thursday last the number was down to 17. Peggy is concerned about indoor events, calling it a "perfect storm". Ventilation is still the way to reduce airborne particles. And Delta is still there. As of this writing the flu clinic has been set for 10/9.
10. Kitchen inspection: Coralie attended. Dawn Pelkey still has a servsafe certificate and gave Ed a paper copy. Ed looked over the kitchen and said there was no problem. A temporary permit will be issued for the mountain market for Fri. 10/8, 4pm to 8 pm and Sat 10/9, 9AM to 3 PM. Masks will be worn, hand sanitizer will be available and doors will be open to enhance circulation. We now have an air "scrubber" in operation in the community room. Some people are still concerned to be in the building with others and some vendors will not be attending, including our own Peggy. If the cases go up & the Governor recommends against gatherings, there will still be food available as usual but for pickup at the kitchen door.
11. Schedule next meeting for October 18, 2021 at 10AM in the community room. The agenda will include, among others, Jennifer Kimball & her opiate "harm reduction" measures; hogweed follow-up; Food safety as described by Sandra Martin & FDA food grant; and under covid 19, discussion of vaccine mandates for town offices.
12. Adjourn at 11:45 AM

Minutes respectfully were submitted as a draft by Nanette Mone 10/03/2021

Approved _____

Nanette Mone



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Peggy White



Darryl Darby

~~Two~~ attachments

1 ED Family Health Inspectors Report August