

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 14, 2024**

TOWN OF GROVELAND

2024 APR 22 PM 12:48

TOWN CLERK
TECH SERVICES

**ATTENDEES: David Greenbaum, RS, CHO, Chairperson
James Stepanian, Member
Rudianne Collins, Member
Rosemary Decie, RS, Health Agent
Anita Wright, RN, Public Health Nurse
Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst.**

This Board of Health meeting was held in the Health Department at town hall.

Meeting Open: 6:30 PM

AGENDA:

The first item on the agenda is public health nurse update. Anita said she doesn't have much, it's been pretty quiet on MAVEN. Respiratory illnesses have been stable for the past three weeks between 1,500-1,600 cases and 18 Covid deaths a week and in terms of visits to the ER, influenza outweighs Covid by 2% vs. 1.6% and RSV is down to 2%. Anita said she talked to Nisha Burke in the COA and Anita will be doing blood pressure clinics beginning this month on March 27. Seniors will call the COA to make an appointment. Anita said the CDC changed their guidance on Covid-19 home isolation, however, DPH has not announced their guidance yet, but once they do boards of health in this state will follow suit. Anita told the Board that she would like to purchase a dose of Narcan nasal spray at Walgreens to have on hand in the office in the event we have an issue at town hall. Stepanian asked Anita what the shelf life is and she said she didn't know, that it probably varies from product to product. Greenbaum said he will address that issue in a moment with regard to opioid settlement funding. Greenbaum said there will be an upcoming 2 day training from the state on opioid settlement funding which will offer direction on how to spend the funding. Groveland will be receiving a small amount about \$4,100.00. Greenbaum said the town administrator told him she is planning on spending the money on enhancing the DARE program at the police dept. and the fire chief would like to buy Narcan. Greenbaum said he informed the town administrator that the town can get Narcan free from the state. Greenbaum said the police dept. and fire dept. would have to do the application process and do the reporting to the state. Anita asked Greenbaum if he knew if the school nurses are participating in the program and he said he did not know but anyone can participate. Greenbaum said his opinion is the schools would have a definite need and high probability for use and should be participating in the NaloxBox program. Rosemary said she did research and found that the town has received 4 opioid settlement payments and that was

confirmed by the town accountant. The town accountant told Rosemary those monies were deposited in the general fund. Greenbaum said the opioid funds are public health funds and this Board should be included in decisions on spending these funds.

Second agenda item is health agent update. Rosemary told the Board she had to do housing inspections with the building inspector and fire chief at Manor Dr. apartments due to water in the basements. Rosemary said management has complied with everything they were asked to do. Rosemary said the Mexican restaurant in Elm Park has not been allowed to open per the building inspector. Rosemary told the Board they were doing work without the required permits and work being done by unlicensed people. Rosemary told the Board the other problem she has been dealing with is at Groveland Auto. Rosemary said they installed gas pump vault pilings next to the septic system leach field. Rosemary said they didn't inform anyone that work began and with no permits, the land surveyor did not stake out the location of the septic system. Rosemary said daily fines have been imposed by the building inspector and if it's not brought into compliance, the next consequence is jail time. Rosemary said they also moved things from the original plan so the septic system reserve area is gone. Rosemary said they may have impacted the conservation area as well. Stepanian and Greenbaum asked Rosemary to check to see if town counsel needs to be advised. Rosemary said in addition, I have had 4 septic system installations, 2 plan reviews and 6 soil tests. Rosemary said she completed the capacity assessment for the PHE grant.

Third agenda item is food establishment/tobacco fees. Rosemary said in your meeting packet I did a spreadsheet for comparison of town fees in surrounding towns, West Newbury, Boxford, Newbury and Georgetown. Stepanian made a motion to increase food establishment fees, restaurant less than 25 seats - \$75.00, restaurant more than 25 seats - \$100.00, tobacco - \$100.00, swimming pools - \$150.00, Collins seconded and it was a unanimous vote. Rosemary said Lori has updated our health dept. fee schedule on excel spreadsheet, draft copy in your packets, and these increases will be so noted. Rosemary said Lori has also updated our renewal applications for septic system installer and hauler and copies are in your packets for your review.

Fourth on the agenda is review minutes for approval. Stepanian made a motion to approve meeting minutes of December 28, 2023, Collins seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

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Fifth agenda item is FY2025 health department budget, 2023 annual report. Greenbaum made a motion to approve FY2025 health department budget and 2023 health department annual report as submitted to the town administrator, Stepanian seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Other agenda items not anticipated at time of posting. Greenbaum stated he needed to brief the Board on a meeting he just concluded with Selectman Naves and the assistant town administrator in Salisbury, James Ryan. Greenbaum said they are proposing to hire a full time health director for the towns of Salisbury and Groveland. Greenbaum said he feels strongly that they are under estimating the amount of work in the two towns. Rosemary agreed and said that she was previously employed in Salisbury to assist the full time health agent with the work. Greenbaum said they would like the health director to work three days a week in Salisbury and two days a week in Groveland. Greenbaum said with the amount of septic systems we have here in Groveland, services to our residents would suffer dramatically. Greenbaum told the Board that he has asked Mr. Ryan to send a detailed proposal for the Board's review and will invite Mr. Ryan to the next Board meeting to discuss with all Board of Health members.

Meeting adjourned: 8:03 PM

Next Board of Health meeting will be scheduled as needed
Meeting minutes transcribed by Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst
Board of Health approved minutes 4/18/24