

Board of Health
Town of New Marlborough
Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2021

Meeting was called to order in person at Town Hall at 6:17 PM with Board members Larry Davis III and Jordan Chretien and agent Scott McFarland present. Jack Bellinger was absent.

Minutes of October 12, 2021, meeting were reviewed and approved.

A monthly Covid and public health nursing update for New Marlborough and Southern Berkshire County was provided by the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative in an email from Amy Hardt and is appended to the end of these minutes. The Berkshire Public Health Alliance will be running a school Covid vaccination clinic at the New Marlborough Central School on November 30th.

With the approval of the October 12, 2021 minutes, the Berkshire Overdose Addiction Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC) should now be able to service the Town of New Marlborough with their mobile health unit, including a Syringe Services Program. Scott will forward the certified minutes to Jennifer Kimball at BOAPC for attaching to the letter to the state DPH acknowledging the New Marlborough BOH voted to allow BOAPC to operate a syringe services program in the Town of New Marlborough.

DEP PFAS well sampling program was reviewed, based on the Zoom call with DEP and town officials on October 26, 2021. DEP has approximately 20 requests from private well owners to be part of the sampling program, and a total of approximately 40 available slots. Private well owners in a few fire-impacted areas and other potential areas of PFAS use will be targeted for the remaining program openings.

The following perc tests were completed since the October 12, 2021 meeting:

- 558 Hartsville-NM Rd, (New construction)
- 114 Downs rd (Upgrade)
- 476 Rhoades & Bailey Rd (New Construction)
- Clayton Mill River Rd, Map 409 Lot 132 (New Construction, Rosenstein)
- 1015 Sisson Hill Rd (New Construction, 2nd dwelling)
- 1121 Canaan-SF Rd, (Upgrade)

The Following Title 5 inspections were completed:

- 49 Pine road, (Pass)
- 1121 Canaan-Southfield Rd (Fail)
- 1017 Hartsville-New Marlborough Rd (Conditional Pass, D-box, tank riser and effluent filter, water test, eliminate graywater discharge/basement sink)
- 105 Knight Rd (Pass)
- 312 Norfolk Rd (Pass)
- 104 Downs Rd (Pass-Tight tank)

No new well permits were issued.

Septic designs received and reviewed included:

- 55 Stratford Road (Upgrade, 5-bedroom)
- 170 Adsit-Crosby Rd (Upgrade, 3-bedroom)

- Adist-Crosby Rd, Map 402 Lot 67.1 (Existing Barn, new construction)

Nuisance letters for 1252, 1254 and 1272 Canaan-Southfield Road were received by the owner and a written response received at Town Hall on November 4, 2021 requesting a 180 day extension. The BOH agreed to remove the demolition requirement for #1254, as long as the house was secured. An extension of demolition of the other two was granted until December 31, 2021.

Motion to adjourn was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott McFarland, Agent.

Covid Update from Amy Hardt MPH, BSN, RN Regional Nurse Leader, Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative: (November 9, 2021)

Here are last week's numbers, COVID-wise. The number of unvaccinated cases is in parentheses for reference.

Statewide, the rolling 7-day average of newly reported COVID-19 cases has been dropping gradually over the past two weeks. Here in Berkshire County, we currently have the highest 14-day daily average rate of new cases in Massachusetts, with cases rising another 17.5% during the week of Oct 24-30. As a subregion, Southern Berkshire County had an even bigger jump: from the 24 cases we reported in last week's dashboard, to 40 new cases over the next 7 days. Unfortunately, this means we are back to High transmission across the county overall. Public indoor masking for everyone continues to be advised. On a positive note, severe symptoms and hospitalizations remain rare – our contact tracers are aware of just a couple residents who have been hospitalized with COVID-related symptoms over the past couple weeks, both unvaccinated seniors, and one has since been discharged.

In the towns where the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative does contact tracing, we are finding lately that about 50% of reported cases are occurring in unvaccinated individuals. Of those, half were eligible to be vaccinated but chose not to. Over the past two weeks, we saw that about half of viral spread was linked to household spread, while around one-third could not be attributed to any particular exposure. This may be related to the fact that one-third of our recent cases were in children under age 14, reporting no symptoms whatsoever. Since we have plenty of evidence by now that adults and children without symptoms can be just as infectious with the SARS-CoV-2 virus as those who feel sick, this trend seems to highlight the importance of vaccination among the pediatric population. By vaccinating a greater percentage of our overall population, we can reduce viral spread, protecting those who are more vulnerable and reducing opportunities for the virus to continue its mutation into new variants.

We are excited about the recent FDA Emergency Use Authorization and CDC recommendation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11. The clinical trial data looks fabulous (91% effective against COVID infection, no serious adverse effects reported, and only minor side effects (sore arm, slight fever, malaise) to the shot that resolved within a day or two. Those who still feel unsure are encouraged to talk with their pediatrician and/or join us for a panel of three local pediatricians who will discuss the children's vaccine on Tuesday, November 9th, 7:00-8:30pm over Zoom. Attendees can simply click on the link www.tinyurl.com/vaxberkshirekids to be taken directly to the event – no advance registration necessary.

Mask on! Vax on! And stay well,