

Board of Health
Town of New Marlborough
Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2022

Meeting was called to order in person at Town Hall at 7:09 PM with Board members Larry Davis III, Jordan Chretien and agent Scott McFarland present.

Minutes from August 9, 2022 were reviewed and approved.

The Covid update from the SBPHC public health nursing is attached. Cases dropped somewhat in Berkshire County over the previous week, but notably Pittsfield wastewater Covid levels have still been rising.

The primary Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative item this month is regional public health funding through the state Public Health Excellence (PHE) grant. The MA Department of Public Health is looking to provide local BOH funding funneled through regional districts or collaboratives. New Marlborough is participating in the states Capacity Assessment through the SBPHC. Jayne facilitated the first round of the Capacity Assessment questionnaire with Scott and Jordan yesterday. There will be two more rounds.

From Covid vaccination reimbursement money to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance, the Alliance is offering its towns individual mini-grants of up to \$3,500 for FY23. There is a simple grant request form being finalized, to fill out the request and the New Marlborough must approve the request at open meeting for the Alliance to consider it. Also, the Alliance is anticipating being able to sponsor the upgrading the Full Circle PermitEyes on line permitting software. Details are being worked out and the upgrade would likely happen in FY 24 or 25.

Jordan updated the board on Food inspections, noting that the Mill river Farm, the New Marlborough Farmers Market and the Flour Bin were coming up.

Jayne Smith is anticipating that the FDA food grant would be done for a group of interested towns, rather than individual towns next year. We may look to have here at an upcoming meeting to update us on the status of that.

Septic designs received and reviewed included:

- 36 Hayes Hill road, Walker-Price (Upgrade, 3-bedroom)
- Map 409 Lot 100 Hayes Hill Rd, Pelkey (new construction, 4-bedroom)

No new well permits issued.

Title 5 Inspections:

- 1090 Cross to Canaan Valley Rd, (Pass, 3-Bedroom)
- 34 Clark Way, (Pass, 3-bedroom, inlet & outlet risers, new D-box)
- 21 Hartsville-Mill River Rd, (Pass)
- 826 New Marlborough-S. Sandisfield Rd (Fail; 2006 engineered upgrade, specify repair)
- 227 Konkapot Rd, (Pass, 4-bedroom)
- 26 Shunpike Rd, (Pass, 3-bedroom)

Perc tests completed:

- 106 New Marlborough-Southfield Rd (Kelly, New Construction)
- 112 New Marlborough-Southfield Rd (Fitzgerald, New Construction)

Motion to adjourn meeting seconded and accepted at 8:50 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2022 at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott McFarland, Agent.

Public health Nursing Covid Update:

Berkshire County remains at the **Low/Green** category of CDC's COVID-19 Community Impact level. Interestingly, reported new cases in South County dropped by 31% last week.

Evidence of household spread continues, and a handful in congregate care as well.
Kimball Farms, Lenox : 2 confirmed cases

Pittsfield wastewater levels of the SARS-CoV-2 virus reported for Sept. 7th were revised upward to show a 50% jump from the previous week. For Sept. 14, the Biobot reporting site shows levels went up by another 20%, so they effectively doubled over that 2-week period. We will see if the most recent number holds or changes again – it's unclear why the site revises their numbers sometimes.

1,744 copies/ml on Sept. 14

1,434 copies/ml on Sept. 7

Local COVID-positive hospitalizations did not stay at the lower level we saw the previous week for long and are back to what has been our "usual" since Spring.
BMC – 11, FVH – 1. Data last updated Sept. 15

Confirmed Cases by Town:

Town	Sep 11-17	Sep 4-10	Aug 28-Sep 3	Aug 21-27	Aug 14-20
ALFORD	0	0	1	1	0
GREAT BARRINGTON	8	6	15	8	8
LEE	7	8	2	8	12
LENOX	7	8	4	16	6
MONTEREY	1	4	2	0	3
MT WASHINGTON	0	0	0	0	0
NEW MARLBOROUGH	4	4	1	3	3
OTIS	1	7	2	3	1
SANDISFIELD	0	1	1	1	0
SHEFFIELD	3	7	4	2	4
STOCKBRIDGE	4	6	0	2	4
TYRINGHAM	0	0	1	0	0
Total	35	51	32	44	41
Change from Previous Week	-31%	+59%	-38%	+7%	-7%

Reminder: The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is no longer reporting school-related COVID-19 case data to the public.

Please consult the [CDC's](#) and [MDPH's](#) current recommendations for masking guidance and other strategies to reduce community spread and protect those at greatest risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

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