

BOH MEETING MINUTES

6/9/2021

Attending
Bridget Sweet, Chair
Timothy Cochrane, Vice Chair

Also in attendance: Cathleen Liberty, Director of Public health; Ginny McNeil, Health Agent, Tyler Paslaski taking minutes; Stephen Sherlock-**Meeting Called to order 5:01pm**

- Reading and Acceptance of May 5, 2021 minutes. Vice Chair Cochrane Motioned, Member Harris Seconded. Unanimous acceptance of May 5, 2021 Minutes

2) OLD BUSINESS

- No Old Business

3) NEW BUSINESS

- **Health Department Podcast:** Director Liberty has been working with Stephen Sherlock on a podcast to bring the discussion to the public. The Podcast is called *The Topic*. The first podcast was recorded last week with Tina Powderly the Executive Director from the Food Pantry about food insecurity. It will be put onto Spotify, as well as the Health Department website
- Chair Sweet: Any plans to reach out to certain audiences? Like telling people who have been vaccinated, parents, teenagers, what they can do and no longer have to do now that they're vaccinated.
Director Liberty: That would be a good idea to have something for families to refer to.
Chair Sweet: Recommended several projects like the Elijah Project to reference or work with to tackle food insecurity.
Vice Chair Cochrane: The podcast is important to get up and running now, because it will help the public realize there are more issues year round than just COVID. There will likely be a great amount of interaction with the high school, as well as local businesses, as the impact of the pandemic begins to subside. Triple E, heat/hydration in the summer, are among issues that would be good to talk about on the podcast.
Stephen Sherlock: A monthly schedule for the podcast gives *The Topic* time to possibly find experts to bring in and make the podcast better.
- **Diplomat Status from the American Academy of Sanitarians:** Chair Sweet was nominated and received Diplomat Status from the American Academy of Sanitarians. The award reads as follows: *The Sanitarian award represents the highest honor the American Academy bestows upon a diplomat. The award is configured for*

exceptional leadership ability, professional commitment, outstanding resourcefulness, dedication and accomplishments in advancing the Sanitarian profession and public health programs. The recipient is presented with a plaque and honorarium.

- **Emergency Condemnation:** Director Liberty received a call from a handyman trying to replace a hot water tank about one month ago about a unit at Franklin Crossing that was so filled that could not get into the unit. Director Liberty and Health Agent McNeil visited the unit and were allowed in and found a situation they determined requires emergency condemnation. There is no water, and the unit is filled to the point where it is a health hazard. Director Liberty is working with the owner to try to remedy the unit, but elder services will soon be getting involved.
- **Salmon VNA Contract:** Board of Health is severing the contract with Salmon VNA as of June 30th to offer a Public Health Nurse full-time.

Chairman opens the floor for any other new business

- 1) 27 Winter Street update: Property has been cleaned up. Heard from handyman who is going to start a demo.
- 2) 76 Jordan has signed with Banner Environmental, and has been approved by MDPH. Situation is not over however. Owner has started removing scrap metal, and senior center has been working with him to make sure he does not feel overwhelmed.
- 3) Director Liberty heard of a program for veterans called Guitars for Vets. The program is meant to help veterans with PTSD through guitar lessons. Director Liberty and Dale Kurts are planning to start our own model, where veterans will receive lessons from a tutor and receive a guitar at the end of lessons. Flyers will be going out.

(4) CITIZENS COMMENTARY

Chair Sweet: On Wednesday June 23, anyone who orders Pizza from Georges will be helping to donate Nick Gaspar.

Stephen Sherlock: Cultural District might be a good resource for the Guitars for Vets. Also, Stephen is helping with starting a network to connect people with Food Pantry and other nonprofits.

5) ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Cochrane motions to adjourn, seconded by Chair Sweet. Roll call vote to adjourn meeting at 5:29 pm.

Next meeting July 14, 2021