

Egremont Board of Health

Thursday, May 11, 2023, 10:30 am

Egremont Town Hall and Zoom

Members Present: Charles Ogden, Chairman, Dr. William Rose (via Zoom), Ellen Maggio

Recording: Juliette Haas, Director

- 1) Chairman Ogden called the meeting to order at 10:33 am. He introduced members and staff present either in person or on Zoom. He also noted that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording will be available on the town website. Motion made and seconded to adopt the meeting minutes from April 20, 2023, with slight modifications. **Vote taken: 3-0. Minutes adopted as modified.**

- 2) **COVID**

Berkshire County is currently in CDC green/low risk for COVID as is most of the country
Statewide COVID 14-day % positivity: 3.04% (down from 3.09% from the previous meeting)
Berkshire County COVID 14-day % positivity: 3.9% (down 4.01% from the previous meeting)
Biobot data for the Pittsfield Wastewater Treatment Facility: 168K copies/L
The Board discussed the approval of a new booster and how the current vaccine protects against serious illness. It is unknown at this time which COVID variant will be included in future vaccine.
The Federal/State COVID emergency officially ends today. Future costs for COVID testing and vaccinations will be by private insurance, Medicare, or out of pocket.
Berkshire Health Systems will be closing its testing center in Great Barrington
The BOH webpage will be updated to inform residents that future COVID inquiries should be referred to Primary Care providers.

- 3) **Berkshire Public Health Alliance Mini-Grant** Director Haas has been working with Egremont Grant Administrator Peg McDonough to hopefully meet the deadline of June 30, 2023 to spend the remaining \$2,750 in funding. If the funds aren't spent, they will be returned to the Alliance.

- 4) **Upcoming Conference** The Board approved attendance and overnight lodging expenses for Director Haas to attend the Energy Summit given by National Grid at the College of Holy Cross in Worcester on June 6, 2023. This conference will be very helpful for preparing for the upcoming Green Communities Grant.

- 5) **Recent Field Work**

Repair/61 Sheffield Road/Juliette inspected
Repair/52 Sheffield Road/Juliette inspected

- 6) **Kulick/12 Mearns Way** The Board reviewed septic plans submitted by Kelly, Granger, Parsons and Associates for a fully upgraded system. The plans include a leach field consisting of 14 Elgen modules in two rows. Motion made and seconded to approve a 2-foot reduction to estimated seasonal high groundwater Local Upgrade Approval under maximum feasible compliance. **Vote take: 3-0.**

- 7) **Hilltown Hot Pies/Hillsdale Road** Rafi Bildner contacted Director Haas stating he would like to open this summer with a temporary outdoor food service while the building is being renovated. Mr. Bildner stated Egremont Building Inspector Ned Baldwin has granted him the use of the outdoor space as COVID outdoor dining will stay in effect until the end of the year. Mr. Bildner was put in

touch with Ned Saviski, Egremont's Alliance Food Inspector, to review food permitting requirements to receive his permit to open.

- 8) **Battery Collection** Director Haas informed the board that since Staples now accepts all single-use batteries for recycling the town will not set up a battery collection program.
- 9) **Future Alliance Public Health Nursing Meeting** Laura Kittross, Director of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance has requested a future in-person meeting with the BOH along with our two Public Health nurses Leslie Dragger and Nancy Slattery to discuss future programs. The Board stated they would like to coordinate this with Peggy Muskrat of the Egremont Council on Aging to share ideas that may be useful to them. The tentative date for this meeting is June 15th.
- 10) Meeting adjourned at 11:18 am. The June meeting schedule will be June 1st and 15th.

Juliette Haas
APPROVED
5/25/2023