

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Minutes for Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 7:00 PM**  
**Remote Participation**

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7:00 Call to Order  
Community Input  
Minutes of 7/19/23  
Administrative Reports

- o MDPH Community Health Equity Survey
- o Beaver Management Committee - Proposal
- o Hidden in Plain Sight 9/14/23 Parents Night
- o Great Meadows Public Health Coalition – upcoming activities
- o Health Fair “Living Well Over 60” – 11/4/23.

Public Health Nurse Report (Tricia McGean)

7:30 Art’s Specialties at Ferns - 8/4/23 reinspection report (Ann Loree)

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- May Well Testing Results – draft summary report (Green, Galligan)
- Assistant Health Agent Position –
  - o Classified Ad Job Title
  - o Update on Applications and Search Committee
- Hazardous Waste Collection responsibility
- Meeting with Housing Trust - tbd
- Tobacco Control Collaborative – proposal to adopt local regulations.
- Planning Board Initiatives
  - o Accessory Apartment Bylaw Review - request BOH representative
  - o MBTA multi-family zoning requirements – request BOH representative
- Community Farm School – update on BOH requirements
- 338 Bedford Road – update on BOH conditions

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Meeting Dates - TBD**

**Upcoming Dates –** Senior Flu Clinic 10/6/23  
Hidden in Plain Sight 9/14/23.  
Health Fair 11/4/23  
Hazardous Waste Collection 10/14/23

*The meeting agenda lists all topics reasonably anticipated by the Board of Health at the time of posting. Additional topics not anticipated may be discussed at the meeting under the agenda item New Business.*

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*Attendance members: Patrick Collins Chairperson, David Erickson, Cathy Galligan, Tony Mariano, Jennifer Wall*

Carlisle Board of Health Minutes  
Special Meeting Date: July 26, 2023  
Approved Date:

*Attendance nonmembers: Linda Fantasia Health Agent, Trish McGean, Erin Green, Betsy Fell (Carlisle Mosquito)*

**1. Community Input**

Collins opened the BOH meeting at 7:01pm, there was no community input.

**2. Minutes of 7/19/23**

Mariano moved to approve the amended minutes of 7/19/23, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**3. Administrative report**

See Below

**4. Public Health**

See notes below.

**5. Art's Specialties at Fern's**

Fantasia reported that Ann Loree visited the site on August 4, 2023. They still do not have their manager and food handler certifications, even though Art had said they would be certified by July 15. They really need a trained manager to cover each of the shifts. Fantasia has heard of a couple of recent incidents and she asked Art to attend this meeting but she has had no response. Ann says that once they get their certifications and have proper management for each of the shifts (3 people with Serv Safe Manager training and one of them onsite per shift), she is ok with the situation. The freezer is still not fixed but it is not being used until it is fixed. Board members were frustrated at the lack of progress and Galligan pointed out that the water issues are still unresolved.

Wall moved to suspend Fern's food permit, Galligan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Fantasia will provide notice for a hearing and the suspension will go into effect 10 days from the notice.

**6. Tobacco Control Collaborative - proposal to adopt local regulations.**

Carlisle does not have a department that regulates tobacco. Carlisle could join one of 2 collaboratives. We need to produce a regulation, for instance, we could have a cap on the number of establishments that can sell tobacco (although we currently have none). Great Meadows is looking at how we can do this legally. This would help in meeting the Tobacco Control and Prevention Performance Standards set by the state.

**7. Community Farm School - update on BOH requirements**

Fantasia spoke with the director. They had an outdoor nursing school with a license for up to 19 students. The school will be all outdoors with a maximum of only 13 children. They provide portable toilets and bring in water so they are not using restroom facilities. They have been licensed by the Dept. of Early Education and Care. They do not require a Public Water Supply permit. They previously ran a smaller program on Ledgeways and there were no complaints. They will start in September.

**8. 338 Bedford Road - update on BOH conditions**

338 Bedford Road is a group home which falls under the protection of the Fair Housing Act. The BOH was not allowed to put in special conditions such as annual pumping of the septic tank but there were three pump outs between April and November 2022 and we did not receive pump reports or well tests. The director did respond and said that people had been flushing things down the toilets. They did submit water tests and they will provide what is required. Galligan went through the BOH minutes and said that BOH was talking about a drinking water test and they provided only total coliform. They are supposed to submit a test

yearly without us asking for it, Galligan asked whether we would like to see more than just coliform. Collins asked if we have any concerns about the water. Galligan said that the concern was that this was the first time that there was a group house on town property. Galligan had done some research and in another part of the country there was an extensive study indicating the potential for decreased septic system performance and potential impacts to groundwater., The BOH had discussed and considered an annual pump out but the property owner Till did not want a pump out requirement, so the BOH backed off on that but remained concerned that the septic could affect the drinking water. The BOH compromised on the water test and maybe coliform is sufficient.

Fantasia said that typically if you are required to test a well it is just coliform. The BOH was limited in imposing conditions because the home cannot be treated differently than any other single-family home.

Fantasia said that while they are supposed to submit a water test annually, the BOH has only received one report, so they are out of compliance on that count. There were several comments about taking stronger action to enforce permit violations--some of which can have serious consequences for residents.

**9. May Well Testing Results - draft summary report (Green, Galligan)**

Galligan and Green put together a summary of the well testing which will be mailed to the homeowners who participated. It is general enough that they would like to put it on the town website.

**10. Planning Board Initiatives: Accessory Apartments and Multi Family Zoning**

Mariano volunteered to work on the accessory apartment bylaw and Collins is also happy to be involved volunteered for multi-family zone. Collins would also be willing to support Mariano on accessory apartments if desired. The Planning Board is also looking for volunteers to work on a proposed MTBA Communities designation which must identify potential sites for increased housing density.

**11. Assistant Health Agent Position**

Fantasia, Wall and Galligan have interviewed 3 candidates, of whom 2 were of interest. One of the candidates had strong Health Department experience. They will wait a few days for more resumes before making recommendations to the BOH. Fantasia thinks we will be ok without needing a temporary for 3 months. Galligan was concerned that at the direction of the Town Administrator, our ad ran with the title specified as BOH assistant as opposed to assistant to the Health Agent. There was some discussion of this but it was noted that the BOH establishes the title. The general feeling was not to make too much of it unless we continue to see things like this in the future.

**12. Adjourn**

Galligan moved to adjourn, Mariano seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 20:55

Respectfully submitted,  
David Erickson,  
Recorder

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS  
August 23, 2023**

**9/5-9/8 Office Coverage from GMPHC**

Carlisle Board of Health Minutes  
Special Meeting Date: July 26, 2023  
Approved Date:

- Tuesday, 9/5 from 9am-1pm: Kelli
- Wednesday, 9/6 from 9am-1pm: Tricia
- Thursday, 9/7 from 9am-1pm: Kelli
- Friday, 9/8 from 10am-2pm: Ann

\*These items were supposed to be Discussion items on Agenda but were inadvertently dropped. They can be added to a future Agenda.

**Hazardous Waste Collection 10/14/23, 9-12** – TSAC cannot be responsible (see email from tom Bilotta), will ask DPW. TSAC may provide volunteers.

**Housing Trust Memo to Select Board 2-17-23** – no response.

**Beaver Management Committee** – this proposal will be discussed at the September Land Use Staff meeting.

**Hidden In Plain Sight** – scheduled for 9/14/23 during Parents Night at the Carlisle School. Great Meadows is preparing the display which will be in a classroom set up as a teen bedroom.

**Great Meadows Public Health Coalition (GMPHC)** –

- Exploring hiring a regional Hoarding consultant to do public education and 1:1 interaction with interested residents.
- TickReport – approved regional funding for our 7 towns so residents can submit ticks for testing at a subsidized rate.
- Food Consultant – proposal to hire an additional Inspector to help with Food Establishment inspections and problems. This item is pending additional funding from MADPH due in the Fall.

**Health Fair “Living Well over 60”**– 11/4/23 with COA, 10-1 pm at the school. BOH will offer BPs, Narcan information and distribution, and possibly flu shots and lab testing; details will be forthcoming.

**DPH Community Health Equity Survey** “The information you share will help DPH and community partners determine how best to allocate funding, improve programming, and develop policies to address health inequities. **Who should take this survey?** This survey is intended for anyone over the age of 14 who lives in Massachusetts. DPH specifically seeks to hear from communities who have been impacted by health inequities.” For more information and to take the survey: [Community Health Equity Initiative | Mass.gov](#)

### **Ongoing Projects**

GIS Project – Engineering Intern or senior worker  
PFAS Resources

August 23, 2023, Carlisle PHN Update

In COVID News:

It may be worth noting that, except in rare cases, the original version of Omicron is no longer circulating—neither is the original strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the early, more severe Alpha and Delta variants.)

- Most prominent strain is EG.5 or “Eris” making up 20% of cases.
- Both the WHO and the CDC this week said they are tracking BA.2.86.

WHO upgraded BA.2.86 to a “variant under monitoring,” adding that it has over 30 mutations and has been seen in multiple world regions. US, UK, Denmark, and Israel

A “variant under monitoring” is a strain with genetic changes that could affect its characteristics like transmissibility but that limited evidence makes its impact unclear, according to WHO.)

- The week ending in Aug. 12 in **the US**, we saw more than 12,600 new coronavirus hospital admissions – a jump of nearly 22% of the previous week.

The CDC no longer tracks COVID-19 infections, but researchers say the spread is likely significant given the increase in hospitalizations. Deaths, which tend to lag behind hospitalizations, have not yet shown a similar increase.

Keep an eye on MWRA wastewater counts which track trends. When you are +, you shed the virus in your stool.

- It does not specify # of cases but is quite accurate when documenting trends. The recent bump in wastewater counts with a slight downward tick but we are still watching closely.
- Historically it has been very accurate.

Americans have largely tuned out COVID, but [the latest COVID uptick](#) is a reminder that the virus continues to [circulate and mutate](#) — though the threat is far below pandemic-era levels.

- Health officials face a challenge convincing a pandemic-fatigued public to get an updated COVID shot, as vaccine uptake has declined with each successive booster.

Waiting for the new COVID booster to be approved and available for use mid to late Sept. This will be a once-a-year vaccine going forward.

- Once it does, we can discuss whether the Board would like to offer a booster clinic in town possibly in Nov.

MAVEN cases

AUGUST 1-23

- LYME 3
- COVID 5
- FLU A 1

Fall Vaccine Clinics:

Seniors on 10/4

COA Wellness Fair “Living Well after 60” is set for Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. Offer flu vaccines, blood pressure screenings. Sign up via link or QR code. Cataldo staffing will be based on sign up #s.

Adult RSV vaccine just came out. We may wait to see about this vaccine before offering a clinic as residents should have a conversation with their primary care provider.

I am getting a list of homebound residents from Carol at the COA and will be performing those home visits in October.

There have been some roadblocks in our homebound vaccination program. Commonwealth Medicine was hesitant to onboard 2 small towns like Lincoln and Carlisle and joining them as one, would make vaccine reimbursement difficult.

I met with the other town's PHNs and the Sudbury Health Director recently as we are trying to coordinate our vaccination efforts for our homebound residents.

Sudbury gets plenty of vaccine and has offered to add me as an administrator and give me the vaccines/supplies I need to do my homebound visits in both towns. They will purchase the vaccine, bill for the vaccine itself and the towns will pay me for the administration as we have done in years past through Emerson. I anticipate about 20 residents.

Upcoming Stop the Bleed classes

- Public Safety
- Trails Committee members
- Girls and Boy Scouts

**13.**