



THE TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
April 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Granby Board of Health was held by conference call/Zoom and opened at 7:00 pm.

Those present were: Dick Bombardier, Lee Lalonde, Herb Abelson

Those in attendance were: Alan Weiss, Robert Ward, Debra Gorczycki, Lorri McCool, and Nancy Jenks.

1. Board signed the following:
Timesheet for Colleen
Money turnover sheet
Disposal System Const. Permit for 131, 135, 137 South St, d box replacements
Well Permit for lot 6, Easton St., Well company must call Lee before beginning.
2. A motion was made, seconded and all were in favor to accept the meeting minutes for March 16 and March 30, 2021.
3. Trench permits were submitted by Greg Everson for 368 Batchelor St, 163 Batchelor St, 173 Taylor St and 87 Ferry Hill Rd.
4. Title 5 Inspection Reports accepted by the Board:
235 Batchelor St, by C. Lemek & Sons, passes
193 Taylor St, by Granby Septic Service, passes
188 Taylor St, by Granby Septic Service, passes
5. The Title 5 Inspection Reports for 131, 135, 137 South Street were not accepted by the Board due to information for well setbacks missing from the reports.
6. Alan Weiss submitted a complete replacement septic design for 7 Darrel Ave. The review was completed. The tank is down slope of an 89foot separation from the well, a bed is used because of well separation, space and slope. A new well would not allow trenches because of the slope. The Board approved the design subject to well/tank separation reduction, a trench permit required and plumbing.
7. John Kopinsky submitted a new construction, 3-bedroom septic design for lot 1, Batchelor Street. No action was taken due lack of fixed references, such as survey pins.
8. The Board discussed the policy for additions to homes. The Board stated that if there is an increase in potential bedrooms an engineer or sanitarian must be contacted by the

homeowner to verify that the septic system meets current Title 5 requirements for the number of potential bedrooms..

9. Debbra Gorczycki was present to discuss finishing the upstairs of her cape style house with 2-bedrooms and a bathroom. The Board advised Ms. Gorczycki to hire an engineer or sanitarian to verify the septic system meets current Title 5 requirements and can handle the extra flow.
10. Lorri McCool was present to discuss a perc test that was done out of season at 60 South Street. Water tables had been determined during the previous perc season. The out of season percs were in area not exactly where water table holes had been dug in the spring. The Board stated that because there were many deep holes, all where the water was deeper than the mottles, those holes can be used and call the water table where the mottles are.
11. The Board discussed the shared services application draft. The Board felt that the shared services concept was needed to provide desired public health support for residents. In addition, the Board did not want to lose the thoughts and effort that went into preparing the draft application. The Board decided that the draft will be included in the minutes for the Board.
12. The Board discussed event permit applications. Due to vendors submitting applications without enough time to review and issue permits for temporary food events, the Board discussed requiring 4 weeks approval time before the event. A motion was made, seconded and all were in favor to require applicants to submit applications for temporary food events four weeks before the event. Colleen was instructed to contact vendors that have submitted applications in the past and notify them.
13. The Board discussed the annual large tag sale that Brenda Knight from Church of Christ Women's Club would like to hold on May 29 with up to 40 booths. The Board will allow the tag sale as long as they can comply with the then current State regulations for COVID protocols, such as outdoors, distancing, masking and 150 person gathering limit.
14. The Board discussed the Granby Bow and Gun Club. Dick stated he would call the Belchertown Town Administrator, Gary Brougham to discuss if he would take the lead in steps to take control safety issues related to the Gun Club.
15. The next regular Board of Health meeting will be held on April 27, 2021, 7p.m. via conference call/zoom.
16. The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Aberdale
Colleen Aberdale, Board of Health Assistant

Richard Bombardier (ca)
Richard G. Bombardier, Chair

Herbert T. Abelson (ca)
Herbert T. Abelson, MD

Lee Lalonde (ca)
Lee Lalonde

DISCUSSION DRAFT

BD-21-1031-OFFIC-OLRH-58664

21433 PUBLIC HEALTH EXCELLENCE GRANT PROGRAM FOR SHARED SERVICES

Prelude

(COVID-19 infection and the resultant pandemic have changed almost every aspect of our lives. Isolation, insularity and fear have had a profound influence on our culture and institutions as well as our ability to respond to challenges to our individual and collective well-being. Our dependence on others has never been greater even in the face of our reluctance to interact.

On line shopping, masks, distancing, hand washing, disruption of schools and workplaces, travel reluctance, family and friend avoidance, and more have interfered with our normal patterns of response to threats as well as our support for others.

This application attempts to respond to this major disruption of our mores, norms and culture, reordering our thinking and response to adversity by redesigning and augmenting our ability to respond to the current as well as subsequent anticipated threats to our society and wellbeing. Everyone has suffered enough; it is time to heal, mend and return to a more normal life.)

In response to the above Bid Solicitation, the towns of Granby, MA, South Hadley, MA, and Amherst, MA or Holyoke submit this application for cooperation and sharing of services related to maintaining and improving the safety, health and wellbeing of their respective and collective town residents.

BACKGROUND

The duly incorporated, independent towns of Granby, South Hadley, and Amherst or Holyoke each have Boards of Health faced with similar challenges related to staffing, funding, professional expertise, program development, response to unexpected events including emergencies and potential catastrophes, as well as monitoring and administering the regulations and good practices related to community stability and its prospering as we go forward.

HISTORY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN APPLICANTS

Granby and South Hadley have had a long standing cooperative relationship via their Boards of Health. In the past, South Hadley, via Sharon Hart and their Board of Health, has provided access to Granby residents for influenza inoculation (dates and other examples of cooperation). South Hadley has also assisted with MAVEN recording and tracking for Granby residents testing positive for COVID-19.

Amherst has provided COVID-19 vaccinations for homebound Granby seniors through collaboration with Emma Dragon, their Board of Health and their EMT service during the month of March, 2021. Cooperation with Holyoke has been via a Board of Health member, Lynn Diniz, who has performed health and business checks and monitoring in Granby. There is a close working relationship between the Granby and Amherst Fire and EMT services and the same between Granby and South Hadley Fire, rescue and EMT services. (other cooperative efforts?)

AREAS TO CONSIDER FOR FUTURE COOPERATION

The following are categories and specifics to maintain and improve the public health of individuals and their communities.

1.Public Health Nursing

The opportunity to have a full-time visiting public health nurse(s) would be a significant augmentation to health care in our communities. Especially for elderly homebound individuals, the ability to monitor blood pressure, blood sugar, bed sores, mobility, mental status, safety and medications, etc. could significantly improve the health of residents, especially the elderly.

2. Public Health Awareness

In most parts of the country and in our communities, the role, visibility and participation of Public Health (including the MA Dept. of Public Health) is mostly obscured by lack of knowledge of Public Health's priorities unless there is an ongoing emergency like the present pandemic. Public Health issues like vaccinations, sanitation, food safety, tobacco and alcohol control, the environment, infectious diseases, obesity, etc. need to be highlighted as critical to the health and welfare as well as the smooth functioning of our communities. A dedicated Public Health agent could be instrumental in raising awareness.

3. Monitoring Infectious Diseases

There are both epidemic and endemic diseases that must be closely monitored in our communities, e.g. Lyme disease, mosquito borne diseases like EEE. West Nile and Zika, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, salmonella, etc. The immediate and long term consequences of these and other infectious diseases can have dramatic effects on the health of our communities and we need to closely monitor, follow, treat and report their presence. In some communities, controlling deer, rodent and rabbit (tularemia) populations is critical.

4. Shared Epidemiologist communication and environmental specialists

There is a strong and persistent need for individuals who are trained in and operate as specialists in communications, epidemiology and the environment. Collecting data in a consistent, understandable and communicable fashion is essential across the Commonwealth. Understanding mechanisms and trends of disease spread is essential. Timely communicating with the public in language that is understandable and appropriate is key to preserving the health (education) of our communities.

5. Community Issues

Clean water, sanitation including Title V and private wells, food safety, monitoring of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, hoarding, schools, senior centers,

support for homeless (in some communities) camp inspections, local hospital involvement, work force development, better public health in general and specific support for boards of health.

SUMMARY OF THIS PROPOSAL

Collaboration between Amherst or Holyoke, South Hadley and Granby brings together towns of varying population size (~38k, ~40K, ~18K and ~6500), yet all have similar needs and will benefit greatly from a shared services approach to public health.

The *Blueprint for Public Health Excellence* developed in June, 2019 by the State of Massachusetts will be the guide for policy development.

Governance will be through representatives from each Board of Health assisted by selected members of each Town's governing body.

Sharing workforce and guiding principles will be the cornerstone of this proposal.

The budget will reflect workforce development of specific individuals who will perform or assist with the objectives of this proposal.

OBJECTIVES

Move each of our communities closer to National Public Health Standards using the MA *Blueprint for Public Health Excellence* as the program template.

Share new critical resources, e.g., specialists in epidemiology, communications and public health nursing across our communities thereby increasing their capacity and effectiveness.

Utilize the shared governance to inform and alert all involved communities to potential threats and/or best practices.

Develop the connections to work more closely and productively between our local communities and the MA Department of Public Health and our local legislators.

PROGRAM PLAN/DESIGN

Shared services awardees throughout the Commonwealth will be anxious to recruit the same scarce individuals—epidemiologists/statisticians, communication specialists, traveling public health nurses, etc. making the task more difficult. However, we must find appropriately trained people for these important positions.

Deal with the present pandemic

Be better prepared for the next one or continuation of this one

Work with MADPH to increase standards

Create an emergency center

Disaster preparedness (a Westover plane crash, etc)

Water contamination

Sanitation

PVPC support for EEE

Sustaining funding

Can we deliver??

Evaluation??

Budget??