

## **Peru Board of Health meeting minutes**

**Monday July 6, 2026 10:00 AM**

**Community Room Peru Town Hall 3 East Main Rd Peru, MA 01235**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM
2. Roll call: Peggy White, Darryl Darby, Jim Kenney, Valerie Bird, Public attendees: Jaymie Zapata as guest speaker
3. State recording status: None. Peggy White will be recording secretary and submit the minutes.
4. Jaymie Zapata, manager of public health planning was present today as a guest speaker to discuss the issue of microplastics as it impacts public health. She started her discussion describing her role in the social determinants of health. The biggest issues have been the impact of substance abuse disorder both overdoses from opiates and chronic health issues from alcohol abuse She is also involved in emergency preparedness messaging, the Hepatitis C Initiative and helping to mitigate heat emergencies by fostering Urban Greening. The Microplastic Initiative aims at reducing toxic plastic use. The health impacts of microplastic exposure involve disrupting hormones and impacting fertility. In the public health arena, the food inspectors are offering safer alternatives to plastic to food service industries. Towns have enacted municipal by laws for businesses to reduce single use plastic and Styrofoam. 75% of the towns in Massachusetts have passed bans to minimize single use plastic. Jaymie did provide written material regarding reducing Microplastics. There was discussion regarding how this topic could be shared in the town of Peru. Reasonable projects would include a free screening of the Netflix movie Plastic Detox possibly through the library. The Librarian will be contacted by Peggy. Jaymie will see if it is possible to get a magnet neither ordered or printed that explains what is recyclable. Jim will reach out to scout leaders in town to see if they would be interested in doing a tabling event to educate people regarding recycling, and reducing the use of plastics. This could be a possible educational experience for the Boy Scouts to learn about and share this information with the community. Hopefully at that event the magnets would be available to be passed out. Also, these can be passed out hopefully by transfer station attendants. Peggy will use Board of health update in the Livewire to share information regarding microplastics as well. If there is increased use of recycling and decreased overall use of plastics, this benefits the town financially by reducing what ends up in the compactor.
5. Reorganization of the board a motion was made seconded and all in favor to keep Peggy as the chair and recording secretary. Peggy will email Sandra Martin and Lydia Shulman regarding Jim Kenny's contact information.

6. Health inspectors report: Perc tests were performed at 320 E Windsor Rd and 6 South Road. Two title fives were performed including 4 David Drive which was a pass and 125 Middlefield Road which failed. Septic design was approved for 514 Middlefield Road, a perc test was obtained for 51 Middlefield Road, well information was provided for 139 South Road. Camp DanBee was inspected. Follow Up 6 North Road: the court date has been postponed until August. Some electrical work has been done but still waiting or the hook up from Eversource. Garnet Lake semi private beach permit has been completed and they are doing water testing as recommended monthly. Val has Maya to follow up on who is owner at 55 E Windsor Rd And continued efforts regarding the receivership. I have asked Val to make sure that the Hogweed eradication is occurring in the right of way adjacent to that property. Val reports that of all the camping permits she sent out she has only received one application and permit fee. There is a camper on the property of 119 South Road the property is not occupied. Val will do a drive by check. Also, the property at 144 Middlefield Road includes an older home that is not occupied but has a class A camper parked on a gravel bed on the property with temporary electrical box with an extension cord. Val will follow up with a drive by and get the building inspector involved.
7. The 21D ticketing system was passed at the annual town meeting but will need attorney general approval and generally that process takes 90 days. Therefore, the benefit for Board of Health use of this enforcement system for the camping permits will most likely go into effect next year for temporary season. Val has Ordered the tickets to be printed for the Town of Peru.
8. Sophie Carnes Jannen Public Health nurse Educator will be at the transfer station this Thursday doing blood pressure screening and education. Peggy will send her an email to make sure she has some kind of signage which would be helpful.
9. The minutes were reviewed a motion was made seconded in all in favor of approving the minutes from the Peru Board of Health May 20, 2026 Meeting.
10. Follow up regarding Public Health Emergency Planning. Jim will discuss with Bruce Cullet the plan to start composing holding messages to be used initially in an emergency. We discussed our messaging needs to be specific to public health related emergencies. We also would like to complete the letter to our citizens and Jim will reach out to Kim to clarify the process to get on the Town Clerk's email list and add that to the letter which will be reviewed and finalized at our next meeting. A form for contact information of those involved in emergency response was passed out at the meeting. It was suggested to invite Emergency Management director and/or Assistant Director to one of our meetings this fall which will be planned. The board members whenever possible will continue to attend the Public Health Emergency Planning Coalition meetings. The BOH

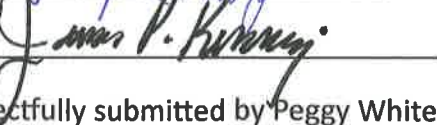
role in emergency planning is an ongoing project. Jim Kenney has agreed to being the board of health point person for the town website in terms of postings.

11. Peggy did not attend the governing board meeting in June. The next meeting will be September 17<sup>th</sup>. She will continue to be the governing board representative.
12. Continued reminder to work through the Board of Health Foundational Trainings.
13. There was no public comment.
14. The next meeting will be August 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Items on the agenda will include:  
Follow up Programming ideas microplastic reduction, review of the final draft for the letter to Peru citizens regarding emergency preparedness and response, Planning a joint meeting with Peru's Emergency Management, vaccine clinic and the other usual items.
15. A motion was made, seconded and all in favor to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Approved 8/29/24

Peggy White 

Darryl Darby 

Jim Kenney 

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peggy White, Chair Peru Board of Health

