Peru Board of Health meeting minutes

Monday October 19, 2026 11:00 AM

Peru Town Hall 3 East Main Road Peru, MA 01235

Town Hall Meeting Room

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:07 AM
2. Roll call: Peggy White, Darryl Darby, Jim Kenney, Valerie Bird, Public attendees: Lydia Schulman, Director of Berkshire Public Health Alliance, Sarah Diaz, Berkshire Public Health Alliance Health Inspector
3. State recording status: None. Peggy White will be recording secretary and submit the minutes.
4. Lydia Schulman discussed the recommendation for towns to enact regulations to require Title 5 inspections be witnessed by the health inspector. Input from the Massachusetts Health was vague on this matter that has been considered common practice. A motion was made, seconded and all the board members were in favor of proceeding with enacting a regulation to require Title 5 inspections be witnessed by the health inspector. This process will require official posting on the town website 21 days and 14 days prior to the public hearing to discuss this regulation. Valerie will obtain copies of regulations regarding this matter that have been passed by other towns which the board will review at the next meeting.
5. The town Clerk made a request that falls under unforeseen business. There is a family in town that is in need and she has requested use of some of the remaining grocery gift cards that were set aside for emergencies. After discussion the board agreed to give half of the remaining $200 of gift cards to this family in need. The remaining 100 will used in holiday community giving project sponsored by the Peru Church that goes to families in need.
6. The Minutes from the Peru Board of Health meeting September 16th, 2026 were reviewed. A motion was made all in favor to accept the minutes with one small misspelling corrected as Mike Fredricks not Fredrickson.
7. Health inspectors report: The court date for 6 North Road has been extended until 10/28 pending electrical Inspection. The court date for 55 East Windsor to go under receivership is scheduled for October 21st, Valerie talked to the owner of 35 North Rd regarding the need to secure the Barn. She also is planning to initiate a discussion with Maja Kazmierczak from the Attorney General's office regarding placing 156 South Road into receivership. Several permits were issued for Installer permits, septic hauler and a septic installation. Follow up is still pending regarding two properties where issues overlap with the building inspector including 36 Brookside that has a tiny house without permits and 37 Kreutzer Rd where there is a shed and camper that are on the property lines. Vall has sent letters to the 36 Brookside house twice as well as attaching a letter the door with no response. Peggy did make the recommendations to the Select Board that the kitchen in the community room be permitted on an annual basis. The Select Board though is not interested in allowing community members to use the kitchen for Cottage industries or retail food production. Peggy shared the public request to have the community room and kitchen cleaned on a more regular

basis at that select Board meeting. Communication between the town administrator and the cleaning service re the best plan and related cost is pending.

8. Darryl has now accepted the position for Vice president of the governing board. It therefore makes sense that Darryl becomes the main representative for the governing board and have voting capability and Peggy take the position of the alternate. Officially the alternate position needs to be appointed by the select board and the Board of Health nominates the representative. A motion was made seconded and all in favor to nominate Darryl as the Representative to the Governing Board and make recommendations to the Select Board to appoint Peggy as the alternate. Peggy will notify the Select Board.
9. PHEP (Public Health emergency planning Coalition) Jim has developed a contact list for important names in town in the event of an emergency the list was reviewed. He also has agreed to have an initial discussion with Bruce Cullett, Emergency Management director re what the BOH is doing to prepare for emergencies and the Community Emergency Management Plan. We will continue to attend the coalition meetings on a monthly basis. It is hoped that we will continue to get practical and functional Guidance for actions and duties in the event of an emergency. The letter to Peru citizens was approved to be printed and included in the upcoming property tax bill.
10. The vaccine clinic very successful this year .Next year's clinic has already been scheduled for September 27th.
11. Follow up microplastic recycling: Jaymie Zapata Was able to find the funding to print on card stock recycling recommendations. Those cards have been printed and delivered to the Scout leader to dispersed at the transfer station as a Scouting Project.
12. It was clarified that the recent email regarding the Community Health equity survey should be completed out by each board of member individually.
13. No public comment.
14. The next meeting had been scheduled 11/9/26 at 11:00AM and 12/7/26 at 10:00AM. These dates have been confirmed by the.
15. A motion was made seconded and all in favor to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:46 PM.

Approved 11/5/26

Peggy White

Darryl Darby

Jim Kenney

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

Received 11/10/2026
Kim Leach, Town Clerk