

## PERU BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Monday January 27, 2025, 10:00 AM

Community Room, 3 E Main Rd

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM.
2. Roll call: present Nanette Mone, Peggy White, Darryl Darby and Valerie Bird, Health Agent. Also present was Coralie Pelkey.
3. Nanette recording.
4. Upon reviewing the minutes, Peggy had 2 comments: 1) Jamie Zappata is Jaymie, going forward. 2) where the minutes show the comment adults influence teenagers to use alcohol more than their peers, Peggy said that it was only one aspect of the report on alcohol consumption in the Berkshires. Nanette stated that the text was about what Darryl had heard at the governors' board meeting. So, the comment stands. A motion was made to approve the minutes from 12/09/2024. All in favor.
5. Discussion of the alliance contract for inspectional services centered on a change in the number of hours that Valerie will spend on Monday nights at town hall. The increase is from 3 hours per month to 6 hours a month. This is essential for Valerie to better collaborate with the building inspector. She had to sign off on permits, etc. Also, the contract calls for Valerie to attend up to 12 meetings of the board of health. The cost last year was \$9,702.00; this fiscal year it will be \$12,862.00. This reflects the difference in Valerie's hours. Valerie's expertise and work is important to the town and to the board of health. After a short discussion it was decided that Peggy will attend the select meeting tonight and see if the selectmen are willing to sign the contract tonight. If necessary, the BOS approval might be held off until their next meeting when it will be on the agenda. Peggy made a motion to approve the alliance contract for inspectional services with the edit to the hours. All in favor. A signed copy of today's minutes has to be sent to the alliance.
6. Health Inspector's report: A) 15 Curtin Rd. ownership has transferred. There is still a pile of debris; Bruce expressed concern but it is a building inspector issue. B) 20 South Rd. Ext: Valerie received an email from the conservation commission regarding a wetland issue. She told them that the owner held off until spring for a septic design. The plan will have to go to the commission for approval and then to the BOH. The owner acknowledged that he needs to drill a well. C) 32 North Rd: the property has been cleaned up nicely, Valerie said. The board can take it off the list. Darryl asked whether the owner had filled out a permit application. Valerie said she will send out forms for the new season on April first to everyone. D) 35 North Rd: Travis is waiting for a septic design and for spring. The COC (certificate of occupancy) will depend on the water supply and the disposal system. E) 55 E. Windsor Rd: Valerie spoke to the attorney general who knew nothing about this property. There is still the hogweed issue and right now the board cannot go onto the property until the housing issue is settled. Tax taking takes years to resolve. In the meanwhile, the hogweed grows and the house is an attractive nuisance. This will definitely go to housing court to resolve. F) 156 South Rd: Valerie said they haven't secured the house yet, but Darryl had gone by more recently and said that there were boards in place. The automobiles were still there. Although Ms. Avery said they are not hers, Valerie said it is the responsibility of the property owner to remove them. It would be up to Bruce to handle the vehicle issue. G) The couple acre lot between The Goyette home and the Becker home on North Rd. is owned by a Patricia Reese Schieili but all letters sent to her in

Forestville CT have been sent back for years. Caryn said she has not paid tax since 2009, but when asked if the property is in tax title, she did not know. Valerie called New Britain CT assessors; there was no record of excise taxes. The town clerk in Forestville did not have a death certificate and said that she wouldn't if the lady died in another town. No one seems to know that the lady owns this property. Mrs. Schieili married in 1968; if she was 20 at the time she would now be 87. Valerie said the lot has to go to tax title. There are 3 apparently abandoned campers on the land, one of which was crushed by a fallen tree. H) 127 E. Windsor Rd. property owned by Evalyn Shaw, has a mobile home on it that is in uninhabitable condition; the concern is that the home needs to be secured from anyone entering it. Ed Fahey verified this when the new septic system was installed. A resident expressed to Peggy the concern that it is dangerous if entered. Denise Shaw sent an email to Peggy stating her issues. (a copy is attached). The board and Valerie discussed possible avenues that Denise could pursue to resolve the problem of the mobile home. Peggy has done some research into potential funding to board up the entrances. Those include the Taconic Foundation, which would funnel monies to the CRA in Dalton. Also, there is the Denise Kayly fund at the cancer center. Sue Bud, a social worker, is the contact person. The Hilltown CDC is another potential source of money. They helped the Shaws with the septic system. Metal scrappers was also mentioned if they decide to try for demolition. Valerie said that if they are unable to find the funds, then the issue would go to housing court and the judge would direct the town to do the work and a lien would be placed against their home. Noone wants to see that happen. Peggy asked Valerie if boarding up the mobile home would be sufficient as a temporary stop gap. She said yes but she thought we should not be going this far with the Shaws and not Ms. Avery for instance. Peggy said it was because Ms. Avery did not say she couldn't do it, but the Shaws did. Peggy also put forth the idea that Denise could contact various persons in town who could put up the boards, possibly on a voluntary basis. But all of this research would be their responsibility. Another avenue would be to sell part of their acreage to pay for the work. Darryl suggested that Denise contact a realtor. A phone call was made to Denise during the meeting and all of this was told to Denise. It was reiterated that as the owners it is their responsibility. Denise said she would try. Valerie will do a follow up in May to assess the result of Denise's efforts.

7. A motion was made to move up item 7 to after item 5. All in favor. With regard to the annual budget, Terry had told Valerie that the report was yearly, so she gave Peggy the figures based on that. However, Peggy said that the report was based on the fiscal year. Valerie adjusted her figures accordingly. Peggy said that last year the report had gone astray for a while. Peggy will ask the BOS tonight, at Valerie's suggestion, to whom is the BOH supposed to send their annual report so that it is received timely. With regard to the BOH annual budget, Peggy has been working with Valerie. The figures include postage, water testing, and the alliance contracts for the public health nurses and the inspectional services. The board, along with Valerie, want and actually need to create a new line-item revolving account under the health department for monies taken for camping permits, to include temporary, alternate and seasonal housing. The BOH has several housing issues that will end up in housing court. At this time, monies for said camping permits are put into general revenue. The board of health will use the funds to pay for court and legal costs and will not be added to the tax burden. Valerie spoke with Bruce; the finance committee would seed the account with \$1,000.00.
8. Several public health surveys were emailed to us from the alliance. One is a community survey to assess a sense of needs. Peggy said she did that one and it was easy. Darryl said he did the hospital

survey. And there is another survey that is more complicated. The alliance said they would do it for us if we wanted. The board decided to have the alliance go ahead with that survey. The last survey is the emergency management plan framework for public health's role in emergencies. This is a living document of who to call when an issue arises. Valerie has offered to use her laptop to complete this. We will go into a working session after; there will be no deliberating, just delineating roles. The state wants each town to fill out this document.

9. Discussion of the mini grant/rural equity grant account balance was added to the next meeting.
10. With regard to the Rural Equity Grant for the holidays 2025, Peggy said that Jaymie had contacted her about applying by June. Coralie thanked the board for the gift cards. Fourteen families were the recipients. Peggy said she wasn't sure if we would be able to get the funds due to the recent pausing of funding. Peggy was able to get another supply of free covid kits, but had doubts that would continue. She then launched into a statement about the effects on communication in the medical field, about disease numbers which doctors rely on, about research for cures and the potential health impact locally and nationally. Fifty percent of the budget for MDPH comes from the federal government. Also, the alliance relies on federal dollars. She said she was trying not to be judgmental, but is concerned from the public health point of view.
11. No additional public comment.
12. The next meeting will be March 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM. The agenda will include health inspector's report, follow-ups on the alliance contract for inspectional services, on the annual report, on the surveys, on the budget line item and on the emergency plan document and status of the BOH account.
13. The meeting continued while completing the emergency plan document. A motion was made to adjourn at 1:30 PM. All In favor.
14. Minutes respectfully submitted as draft by Nanette Mone 03/02/2025.

Approved 03-03-2025

Nanette Mone 

Peggy White 

Darryl Darby 

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