

Peru Board of Health meeting minutes

Tuesday May 28, 2026 10:00 AM

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM
2. Roll call: Peggy White, Darryl Darby, Nanette Mone, Valerie Bird, Public attendees: Jim Kenney, Sherri Thomas, Washington BOH and special guest Laura Kittross
3. State recording status Nanette Mone
4. Presentation regarding Peru Municipal CERC Plan with Laura Kittross. White, admittedly the CERC plan is big and complicated, towns will most likely continue working on the plan through 2027. Required by the Department of Public Health in Massachusetts: was every PHEP coalition developed CERC training, provide a CERC template and work with the towns. The contract for this project with the Alliance ends next month. The most important point is towns should know ahead of time how to get information out. She cited recent issues where information that was accurate was essential. Current template is a draft and there may be more changes including increasing the number of holding messages that would go to the emergency management director. The importance of these holding messages would be information can get disseminated in an expedient manner. She outlined several steps:
 1. CERC Pre approved holding messages which would be approved by the emergency Management Director first and then the select board.
 2. Establish the spokesperson as a trustworthy source of information by:
 - a. Being aware immediately of the situation and provide the basic initial holding message of: "we are aware the incident happened, more information is being gathered, please check within a certain amount of time for updates".
 - b. Know how to dispense that information whether reverse 911, facebook page, electric town hall board, or town email list.
 - c. Who to contact and what will be the method of transmission of the information. Who is control of that method.
 - d. How to reach the percentage of town residents who may not get the message via traditional methods for instance people that do not have cell phones or computers to receive email. How do those people get contacted. The methods include door to door, encouraging people to reach out to their neighbors and last resort in small towns can be use of a megaphone on the police cruisers.

3. Create a contact list and make sure there is both printed and digital copies that include: Emergency Management Director, Assistant Emergency Management director, Select Board Chair, Town Clerk, Highway Department, Health inspector and back up for those positions. These Contacts should be updated one to three times a year.

4. How to get information to the press: know what is the process for approving press releases and who to contact.

5. Damage control: only share the facts, say what you know and don't know, make sure you communicate that you are going to find out the facts and share them as they become available, direct questions to an official source, monitor social media for misinformation and continue to offer the facts and links to the official source of information. Jim suggested a potential FaceBook page to use to get information out: Check what is happening in Hinsdale and Peru, Hinsdale also has a FaceBook page and the Peru Town Clerk. Laura also suggested if the matter relates to school age children's schools have an all-call list and also can have paper letter sent home.

6. Make sure this information gets into the comprehensive Emergency Management plan for the town.

5. PHEP Coalition meeting is next week on Tuesday. It was discussed that we continue to work on the letter to send to citizens regarding emergency preparedness and surveying their needs. Particularly in light Laura's comment that there are some residents that may not have access to Internet or cell phones. We will add a question to that nature. Also still needing information regarding reverse 911 and how the town's email can be utilized and accessed for town residents.

6. The meeting minutes for March 23, 2026 and April 21st 2026 were reviewed. A motion was made and all voted in favor of approving the minutes with one small addition regarding the fall prevention program.

7. Health inspectors report: Val collected \$1000 worth of fees last month. 13 Haskell is a new construction; there were issues with the contractor. Title 5 inspection occurred, the recommended solution for the tank being in the driveway was an H2O tank to be used. The septic has been completed and the COC was received. East Windsor Road the property needs to be clarified whether it is actually #320 or 230, a perc test is scheduled. 51 Middlefield Road is a repair which means a perc test that is done on an existing house due to a failed title V. The septic repair plan is pending. 68 Curtain Road a title V and per test have been performed and currently waiting on the Septic design plan. 20 South Rd Ext contractor went to install the septic system but there was water on the field. He declined to do the project. Currently there is no new contractor. The owner, Bruce Vachon, did meet the conservation Commission, Mike

Fredericks who suggested that they hire a new engineer, there are limited placements for septic, it was suggested by Jim Kenny that they possibly could use the front of the yard. No tight tank can be used as it is new construction. Val sent out eight applications for the camping permit. She has received only one back. There has been no answer on the other properties which include 35 N Road 32 N Road South Road Extension, Andes Road, Haskell Road and Garnet Mountain. There is no enforcement mechanism regarding the lack of response to these properties at the present time. Chapter 40 Section 21 D Ticketing is an item on the warrant for the annual Town Meeting. If this is passed it will go into effect July 1st of 2026 which gives a mechanism to achieve compliance without requiring the town attorney. It was encouraged that all members of the Board of Health attend the annual Town meeting to support this important measure. Update on 6 North Road the next court date is June 24th. The owner is moving forward with getting electrical hookup. The plan is for the owner to contact Valerie when the electrical is in place. She is planning on recommending at housing court the allowance of a one month extension if needed.

8. Fall Prevention Program was attended by six attendees. The plan is to have Sophie Carnes Janney, public health nurse, return this summer ideally during the Wednesday transfer station afternoon hours to do a blood pressure screening.

9. Reminder was made to continue to work through Board of Health Foundational Trainings, and conflict of interest training.

10. No additional public comments were made.

11. The next meeting will be on July 6, 2026. The agenda will include follow up of the annual town meeting vote on the 21D ticketing system, health inspectors report, continued work on the CERC initial Plan, and the letter to the town residents, reorganization of the board.

12. A motion was made, seconded and all in favor to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02PM

Approved 7-6-24

Peggy White

Darryl Darby

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

