



**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of Meeting  
**Grafton Board of Health**  
 January 9, 2023

A meeting of the Grafton Board of Health was held on January 9, 2023 and conducted remotely via Zoom. Present was Karen Gwozdowski Gauvin, Chair; Austin Magnant, William Muller and Daniel J. Finn. Staff present was Micah Blondeau, Regional Public Health Specialist and Amelia Houghton, RN both with the Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance

A motion was made by Austin Magnant to open the meeting at 6:30 p.m., seconded by William Muller via roll call vote: Austin Magnant, William Muller, Karen Gwozdowski Gauvin and Dan Finn all ayes.

***CMRPHA UPDATES:***

Mr. Blondeau stated he had no big updates since the last meeting except for food permit renewal applications that are still outstanding. We are still waiting for a non-compliance fee from Stephanie’s Daily Grind and Spectrum is not returning telephone calls or emails. One new potential foodborne illness complaint was called in which the establishment will be inspected tomorrow. A new Body Art Establishment opened, after inspection, in the Santander Bank Plaza. Karen Gwozdowski Gauvin stated that Nancy did send out the ‘Alliance Inspections Report – December 13, 2022 thru January 6, 2023’ - informing everyone to check emails.

Amelia Houghton reported two flu clinics and one COVID-19 vaccination clinic was held in November and December at the High School and Millbury Street Elementary School for students and their families.

Blood Pressure Clinics resumed at the Senior Center and Forrest Lane; one per month. Topics relative to seniors who may have health questions was discussed as a possibility of having a presentation on such topics. Representative Joe Early did a presentation on overdoses and the Opioid crisis where the seniors received it well. Amelia Houghton thought a survey being sent out to residents to decide which health related topics they may like to have discussions about and then have a presentation on that topic. Dan Finn suggested partnering with Marianne Devries, GGMRC Coordinator, and holding it at the Police Station possibly several sessions.

***COVID-19***

Amelia Houghton reminded all that VAX finder is still up and available for residents to find clinic dates and times as well as the City of Worcester website.

As of January 6, 2023 Grafton has had 4,061 positive cases since early 2020 when the pandemic began.

Case counts were higher due to the holidays in November and December, the flu is at a high level, and RSV seems to be calming down compared to what it has been. Residents are encouraged to wear masks especially in crowded places and around immune compromised and the elderly. The vaccine and booster are still available and on mass.gov with locaters.

There is an uptick in Group A Strep appearing with more severe cases over the US. Mrs. Houghton continued she had one case last year, not in Grafton, and so far in 2022 has had one more. The DPH staff is still conducting contact tracing mainly on the elderly and the very young. The in between age group is sorted out by most urgent and contact tracing is done with those cases. All types of vaccines are available to the public and are highly recommended getting your shots and boosters.

William Muller stated that some schools are moving towards recommending masks; not mandatory just recommending. He also stated now that we are past the Holiday Season, we will have some sense of what uptick we will have.

Amelia Houghton stated she is still entering cases into MAVEN reporting system. Case counts are not that accurate because people who are ill are just staying home and not testing or are staying home and testing but not reporting.

***APRIL, MAY and JUNE MEETING DATES:***

April 3, May 1 and June 5, 2023 were the dates set.

***OLD/NEW BUSINESS:***

Dan Finn attended the PHEP meeting with 39 of 72 communities on the call. One item mentioned was to try to get all emergency trailers to be consistently stocked with fresh supplies: partnering with CERT and GGMRC.

Dan Finn will be setting up a meeting with Tufts to discuss the Rabies Clinic.

***UPCOMING MEETINGS:***

February 6 and March 6, 2023

***ADJOURN:***

A motion was made by Dan Finn to adjourn at 7:15 P.M., seconded by Austin Magnant via roll call vote: Austin Magnant, William Muller, Karen Gwozdowski Gauvin and Dan Finn all ayes.

These minutes were approved at the March 6, 2023, meeting.