



WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

President

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Executive Committee

Laura Kittross, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Phoebe Walker, Franklin Council of Government
Charlie Kaniecki, Hatfield
Thomas Hibert, Southwick
Rebecca Jurczyk, Great Barrington
Ryan Paxton, Montague

Ex-Officio

Randy White
Thomas Fitzgerald

MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2024 FULL MEETING AT PAISANO'S RESTAURANT, SOUTHAMPTON

Attendance; *Sharon Hart; Gerri Swanson; Phoebe Walker; Tammy Spencer; Tom Hibert; Ryan Paxton; Bri Dupras; Laura Kittross; Colton Garelli*

SH opened the meeting at 11:39 am

Officer and Member Update

Sharon Hart and Gerri Swanson informed the committee that they would be stepping down as President and Vice President effectively. A discussion was held as to who would be interested in assuming the roles. A motion was made by SH to elect Tom Hibert as the new WMPHA President and Ryan Paxton as the new Vice President. Motion was seconded by GS and approved by all.

A motion was also made to reelect Bri Dupras as Treasurer and Tammy Spencer as Secretary for another 2 year term. Motion was made by PW and seconded by RP. All approved.

Colton Garelli of the Holyoke Health Department attended the meeting as a prospective member.

Minutes Review and Approval:

May's minutes will be postponed, but the minutes of the June 18 meeting were approved. Motion made by PH to accept the minutes and seconded by BD. All approved.

RS Update - BD

Of the 30 persons who participated in the program, 24 responded and 3 people passed the exam. Of those that did not pass, all but one will be taking the exam again.

Financial Report:**Checking:** 10,383.72**Savings:** 10,620.28**Grant FY23:** 5,400.52**Grant FY24:** 18.40

Group discussed spending down FY23 funds to cover allowable TT5 expenses.

Officers' Insurance

BD obtained a quote from Finck and Perras for insurance for the officers of the Executive Committee of \$1,460 annually. This amount may change if we determine nonprofit status. BD, TH, and RP will participate in a virtual call with the insurance agency and report back.

MHOA Annual Conference

MHOA has asked WMPHA to be represented on a panel of Massachusetts public health organizations. Waiting to hear back from Doug Halley on what the panel entails.

Training Hub

BD informed the group that there will be Tier 2 PHIT Housing and Food trainings in the Fall and the public health nursing training hub for Western Mass will be housed at UMASS.

PW mentioned that DEP is getting the contract ready to provide training through NEIWPCC, who will be hiring 2 positions to work with DEP on waste water trainings.

Legislation

SAPHE update PW. SAPHE did not pass this time around, but it was attached to the Economic Development Bill, which the legislature will more than likely revisit in September

Housing Bond Bill did pass, making accessory building legal by right. Discussion was had about how this may affect local public health down the line.

Totally Tile Five Conference Update

TH updated group on speakers so far: Mark Stinson DEP; Dig Safe; Bruce Boucke (Form 11 Overview); Tom Hibert (Title Five BOH Steps); Department of Labor Standards; Vendor Overviews

GS updated that she will get the speaker gift baskets from Bashitas.

TS has received one vendor survey to date.

BD looking into CEU slips. Discussion was had about digitally issuing CEUs, but will be tabled for next year.

Attendee gift discussion. Group decided on a trowel/knife. Will look to spend down grant money on the gifts.

CLPH- PW

Discussed the Foundational Public Health Services and the Cost Advisory Committee for determining costs of Public Health Services throughout the Commonwealth. PW also distributed FY24 Progress Report for group to review before submitting to CLPH.

Nonprofit Discussion

Group discussed the differences between State and Federal Designation and TD and LK will work on updating the State report. BD will look into Federal Designation.

Website

LK sent out link for new website to review.

Meeting Adjourned 1:15 pm**Next Meeting:**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held at **11:30 am on Tuesday, September 10, 2024** at Paisano's Restaurant, Southampton.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Spencer, Secretary WMPHA