WMPHA

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2025 IN PERSON MEETING AT SOUTHWICK TOWN HALL (454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA)

Attendance *Tom Hibert; Ryan Paxton; Bri Dupras; Tammy Spencer; Phoebe Walker; Laura Kittross; Sharon Hart; Colton Garelli; Charlie Kaniecki; Sean Gonsalves*

TH opened the meeting at 11:48 am

Minutes Review and Approval:
Motion made by PW to accept the minutes of February 11, 2025 meeting and seconded by TH. All approved.

Treasurer's Update

Financial Report:
Checking: 15,902.24
Savings: 10,616.51
Grant FY23/24: 665.95
Grant FY25: 12,500

BD updated that the check for the grant was received and the invoice for the second portion has been submitted.

CLPH and Legislative Update – PW

CLPH met with DEP to discuss ADU's and Title 5. Discussed having DEP commissioner at upcoming CLPH meeting. Discussed Foundational Public Health Service. They home to see the reports that have been generated. Also had a presentation of the Local Public Health Academy.

PW encouraged group to continue to push for engagement in budget advocacy. PW is working to get an advocacy workshop together.

PW also brought up supporting private well regulations bill.

WMPHA Logo Discussion

TH received a quote for the logo of $2,000. The design company is Alchemy Method, and the owner, Amelia Fanion, is a relative of TH.
BD made a motion to spend the $2,000 for the design of the logo through Alchemy Method; RP seconded; All approved except for TH who abstained.

MHOA Conference Collaboration

BD updated that MHOA would like to collaborate with a variety of public health associations for this year's annual conference. They would like to work with WMPHA to come up with a rural public health track.

Soil Evaluator Refresher Course

BD brought to the group that Mickey Spokas wanted to see if we would be interested in hosting a soil evaluator refresher course to be held the day after the next soil evaluator field course to be hosting at Charlie Kaniecki's farm in Southampton. The course would be held May 14, 2025, with a rain date of May 16, 2025.

The group agreed that there was not enough time to properly set up and promote the course this Spring, but would be collaborate for a future date

Power Hour Ideas

- CLPP – Lead refresher/Lead 101
- Hitchcock air sensor and forest fire webinar 5/20/25 from 1:30 pm to 2:30pm
- Housing Court document training
- Hoarding
- Lobbying/civics
- Short Term Rentals – How health departments are handling them. Building code changes requiring annual inspections. Maybe Fall to allow for more ADU experience.

Training Hub Update

BD relayed that there is no new information from last month's meeting.

DEP Update

Sean Gonsalves, Regional Project Analyst from Mass DEP's Western Regional Office, updated group on DEP's forthcoming guidance on ADU's.

Member Discussion

DEP has given Sean Gonsalves, Regional Project Analyst from Mass DEP's Western Regional Office, approval to attend the WMPHA meetings as a subject matter expert. Welcome Sean!

Meeting Adjourned
Motion made by SH to adjourn and seconded by LK. All approved.

Next Meeting:
The next Executive Committee meeting will be held virtually at **11:30 am on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025.** Next in person meeting will be June 10th at BRPC.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Spencer, Secretary WMPHA