

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Rowe Town Hall, Conference Room 1

Via Zoom # 288 065 7034 or in person

Present: Herb Butzke, Chair and Kathy Atwood, Member; Christine Bailey, Admin Assistant. Town residents joined the meeting at 6:00pm Sarah Stine, Ed Silva, Wend Norcross and Chief Hyytinen; Randy Crochier, FRCOG; Dave Wattles and Nate Buckhout from Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (zoom). Town residents Julie Shippee and Laurie Ledger joined the meeting at 6:09pm.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Herb Butzke at 6:00 p.m.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife: Dave Wattles and Nate Buckhout from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife joined the meeting via zoom to discuss the Bear Feeding issues at 35 Newell Cross Road. Concerned residents also joined the meeting. The group discussed a male at 35 Newell Cross who has been feeding the bears, in which, there has been daily sightings at his home and in the area. Newell Cross Road is a highly populated street with numerous children. The resident insists he only feeds the birds but has been interacting and entertaining the bears through food, hugging and petting. Mr. Wattles said there are several steps that the Town can take:

- FRCOG to send out an ordinance with warning with fines
- Writing and instituting a by-law with heavy fines up to \$1,000/incident
- Send out an alert 911 Robo call alerting residents of heavy bear sightings especially in that area of town
- Post signs around the "high alert area" and several Town buildings: "Bear Zone Warning"
- Notice in the Town Goal Post and at Town buildings on what to do when encountered by a bear

Mr. Wattles will send to the Board of Health letters that another Town used when presented with the same dilemma. If the situation continues, Fisheries and Wildlife Division might need to remove the bears. Mr. Wattles and Buckhout along with all residents left the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

FRCOG: Randy Crochier (Inspections): Randy reported on the following homes in Rowe:

- 96 Ford Hill Road – Randy is in the process of locating the bank to order a clean up of the property.
- 77 Hazelton Hill Road – He will be ordering another notice of inspection to the home owner.
- 285 Zoar Road – The property was recently sold to a Property Management Company. To date, there has been some clean up recently.

Randy said the summer inspections are underway. Jasmine Ward is handling the Rowe Conference Center. Randy is working with Selectmen, Joanne Semanie and Briel Gibson, Park Manager on a summer program for the children. Randy left the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve May 7, 2025 minutes.

FY25 Budget/Payables: Herb discussed the budget and the balances on the accounts. He said we look in good shape until the end of the fiscal year. A motion was made and seconded to approve the following FY25 invoices:

Vendor	Invoice#	Date	Amount
Amazon – Calendar for Office	1NVWHMVW9KX	4/24/25	\$9.99
USPS – EDDM Mailing of Dump Tag Letters	o2146637129	5/13/25	\$55.75
USPS – EDDM Mailing of Hoarding Letters	9918415	4/17/25	\$55.75
RN April Mileage	250430	4/30/25	\$95.43
Wired West	3931790	5/12/25	\$90.00
National Grid	250505	5/5/25	\$118.16

FY25 Acct	Account #	7-31-24 Approp	Curr Bal (4/30/25)	Payroll/Payables	Amount	New Bal
Transfer St Att	01-512-5140	\$17,663.00	\$ 3,517.18			
TS Att. Training	01-512-5800	\$ 425.00	\$ 425.00			

BOH Stipends	01-512-5141	\$ 4,938.00	\$ 1,234.52			
Clerk Wages	01-512-5142	\$13,364.00	\$ 2,557.15			
BOH Clerk Training	01-512-5711	\$ 514.00	\$ 102.80			
Town Nurse	01-512-5143	\$52,391.00	\$ 9,406.18			
Physician Stipend	01-512-5144	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00			
Snow Removal	01-512-5145	\$ 500.00	\$ 452.22			
Hazardous Waste	01-512-5290	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00			
FCSWMD Assess	01-512-5300	\$ 8,846.00	\$ -3.20			
Mosquito Control	01-512-5382	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0			
BOH Operations	01-512-5701	\$13,500.00	\$6,129.26	OPIOID-Transfer Calendar- Office EDDM Mailing – Dump Tag Letters	\$ 746.00 \$ 9.99 \$ 55.75	\$ 6,809.52
Health Sv Ops	01-512-5703	\$ 7,500.00	\$1,857.65	EDDM Mailing – Hoarding Letters RN April Mileage	\$ 55.75 \$ 95.43	\$ 1,706.47
Refuse Gardens	01-512-5708	\$37,503.00	\$2,683.92	Wired West, #3931790 dtd 5/12/25 National Grid, #250505 dtd 5/5/25	\$ 90.00 \$ 118.16	\$ 2,475.76
FRCOG Health Svs	01-512-5788	\$ 5,797.00	\$ 41.00			
OPIOID FUNDS \$90,000	27-512- 5400-83139	\$10,286.29	\$ 8,068.29	BayState Franklin (Mom's do care) The Consortium (Recovery Project) Walmart payment #3	\$ 746.00 \$ 1,472.00 +\$ 585.97	\$ 8,654.26

Transfer Station:

- Herb Butzke read the Transfer Station Logs.
- Jan Ameen emailed reporting the Tracking for 5 cubic yard vehicles/trailer rule. If the load is larger than 5 cubic yards, Refuse Garden attendants have the right to refuse. Christine forwarded the email to Rob Beaumier.
- Jan Ameen reported the FY25 May Recycling Processing Cost - \$25.32/ton which is a \$4.00 increase from last month.

BOH Concerns & Updates:

- The water testing for Pelham Park failed the 5/19/2025 testing. Briel, Park Manager will have it tested again on Tuesday (May 27, 2025). She will put up signs around the beach area to prohibit any swimming. Housatonic said it was most likely due to the heavy rain we have been receiving.
- Christine accompanied the Mass.Gov Health Department and Tom Lussier of Housatonic as they conducted a Sanitary Survey and Testing at the Town Hall. The well outside the Town Hall should be 100' from the pond and it is measuring 90'. The State Department believed that since we have never had water issues before, there should not be a problem and testing should pass. Christine mentioned the pond edges might be "swollen" due to the winter snow melt-off and the enormous amount of rain that we have been receiving. Therefore, with the swelling the edges were closer to the well measuring.
- Christine has Jury Duty on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.
- Christine had several vacation requests for the upcoming summer months. All time was approved.
- BOH Emergency Plan - tabled

OPIOID Updates: N/A

WATER TESTING:

- Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing:
 - 5/6/25 - All samples in proper condition
 - 5/19/25 – Rowe Pelham Beach failed – Retesting to take place 5/27. Beach will be posted.

New Business: Kathy said Matt Brown is working with Henry Dandeneau in reference to obtain a zoning variance for his septic.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:21 pm unanimously.

Next meeting: June 4, 2025

Approved:

Herb Butzke, Chair

Daniel Poplawski

Kathleen Atwood