



# New Hampshire Health Officers Association

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 15, 2021

Via Zoom Video Meeting Platform

### I. Call to Order

Wayne Whitford, President called the meeting to order at 9:00AM via Zoom Meeting Platform

### II. Attendance

Wayne Whitford, President  
Brian Lockard, Vice President  
Denise DeBlois, Treasurer  
Dennise Horrocks, Secretary  
Ron Eisenhart  
Ren Beaudoin  
Matt Cahillane, Program Manager, HOLU  
Sophia Johnson, Health Officer Specialist  
Nancy Kilbride, Events Your Way

Absent:  
Dennis Roseberry  
Arthur Capello  
James Murray  
Ron Beard  
Heidi Peek

### III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 13, 2021 were approved.

### IV. Treasurer's Report- Denise DeBlois/ Nancy Kilbride

No May expenses. \$135 revenue from membership fees. Total in Checking account and Money market is \$17197.88. Currently at 195 members. Treasurer's report accepted.

### V. Health Officer Liaison Updates/ Health Officer Manual Update- Sophia Johnson

- a) Program Updates: Governor Sununu signed HB79, the HO bill last Thursday. There is going to be a joint training on June 23, 2021 with NHMA for HO's, BOS, and Town Managers/ Administrators. This training has had positive feedback with 60 signed up so far. NHMA has been a great partner with HOLU and wants Sophia to write an article for their next newsletter. NHMA will be pushing out this training to BOS and managers in an email on Wednesday. Technical assistance calls for HOLU are about 30-40, with not as much Covid-related.
- b) Training and Health Officer's Manual: Matt and Sophia have been developing a curriculum for the trainings required by HB79. They will likely be 1 hour modules, and perhaps an in person training once a year in the future. Sophia and Matt have gone through all the HO manual chapters that are published

on-line and identified old chapters and those needing updating. They then assigned a priority rating based on the last time updated or significant changes that affect the chapter. The “Roles & Responsibilities” chapter may get bumped up in priority due to HB79. Wayne suggested working on this chapter but waiting until the rules come out to publish. Matt noted that sometimes the rule-making takes 4-6 months. No one has reached out yet about creating policies, and they are currently negotiating with DHHS for staff resources.

## **VI. Spring Workshop discussion**

- a) Nancy reported that 67 people had registered, but only about 40-45 actually attended. Possibly because it was a free, virtual event, so easier to back out when no cost involved.
- Brian and Dr. Chan were well received according to the results.
  - It was unfortunate that none of the questions that were asked in advance were answered.
  - Regarding the question about selling merchandise, 10 said yes, 10 said no.
  - There was interest in regional trainings, more in the North Country.
  - Respondents are anxious to get back to in-person workshops, 74%.
  - The top future topics suggested were septic and hoarding.
  - Dr. Chan mentioned hoping to work closer with HO’s moving forward. Perhaps now that HB79 passed and his willingness, we can open the door to that happening.

## **VII. Covid-19 Updates/ Response/ Issues**

- a) Public health experts suggest that we will see a surge of Covid-19 in the fall. We will probably see an increase in the cases of influenza. Summer school and school guidance may be forthcoming. Outdoor dining, which was supposed to expire with the emergency declaration is still a possibility with SB 155.
- b) The board shared the current protocols in their town/ city. Some are still seeing employees reluctant to get vaccinated.

## **VIII. Committee Reports:**

- Seasonal Issues: Days over 90 degrees is trending higher. Large increase in ticks, but they are mostly dog ticks.
- Emergency Preparedness: No annual conference planned. Climate change is applying for a grant to build community resilience. It would apply funds towards housing interventions, better winterization, moisture control. This may involve HO’s.
- Legislative/ NH Public Health Association: The hearing on the block grant which funds Sophia’s position took place. If the board wants to make a case for a full time liaison, it will have to be brought to the block grant. This should be something that we discuss in our strategic planning meeting.

**IX. New business** Dennis Roseberry is retiring July 6, 2021. The board will acknowledge his service to the board with a letter of appreciation and small token (gift card).

**X. Next Meeting**

- a) The next zoom meeting will be Thursday July 15, 2021 at 9:00AM.
- b) The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted: Dennise Horrocks, Secretary