Agenda Item

Introductions

Minutes

Board members shared their best tips for getting through the winter. Kathie shared a recipe for ice prevention for stairs and porches that everyone wanted: 1 tsp Dawn, ½ gallon hot water, 1 Tbs rubbing alcohol. Pour on steps to prevent icing. Must be renewed a few times over the winter. Minutes for December were accepted.

Avian Flu in CPHS Towns – Risks and Responses

Greg Lewis, the Public Health Planner for the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition, based at the FRCOG, gave a presentation about avian flu’s history and effects, and on the board of health role in any outbreak in Massachusetts. We had a lively discussion about the coordination that would be necessary, and Greg offered to create a short newsletter blurb for towns to send out to address any concerns the district’s many backyard flock owners may have.

Staff update - Nurse

Lisa gave a quick update on her chronic disease self-management work for 2015, in which she saw 223 people in the district, for 1,015 visits. Both of her grants, for Home Care and for the hospital, are now over, and she is keeping an eye out for new ones. The grant mentioned in the December mtg. turned out to be only open to non-profits, and we do not qualify. Lisa had the Board review a draft rabies letter to CPHS animal control officers offering her support when people are bitten. Some edits were suggested, and motion made, seconded and passed to send out the letter with edits. Finally, Phoebe and Lisa passed out town-level reports from the Mass Healthy Aging collaborative. Members were asked to review the report with their Board of Health and come back prepared to discuss in February.

Staff Update – Food Safety Agent

Randy reported that he is a third of the way done with his online training from the FDA and has spoken with one of the two possible inspectors for the in-person portion for he and Glen. He is also working with the Medical Reserve Corps to get clarity from the Red Cross
what their food safety requirements are for shelters, and then he will offer training to volunteers to meet those. He is also researching what it would take for CPHS to become an official provider/trainer for the allergen training certificates that DPH requires of restaurants. Finally, he passed out the flyer for the first ServSafe/Chokesaver training, which will take place March 25 at the Buckland Town Hall. This will be emailed to all active food service permit holders in our system next week.

Staff Update – Health Agent
Glen reviewed the permit renewal process online and discussed some of the hiccups along the way and what he and Paul are doing to address them with the software developers. He also reported that the food inspection software on tablets is almost ready, and could be reviewed in an upcoming meeting.

Budget for FY 2017 – Final Discussion
Budget for FY 2016 review – Phoebe went over the reports sent out in advance of the grant and town funds.

Budget for FY 2017 – The Board voted to accept the proposed budget and its revenue sources at the December meeting, and instructed FRCOG to use the same methodology of assessment formula and discounts as last year. Phoebe distributed the assessments that she mailed out at the end of December, totaling $84,631 for FY17. Motion made and seconded and the Board unanimously approved the assessments.

Member updates
Leyden’s school well is finally up and running again after three rounds of treatment and $2500 of testing. The Board of Health banned recreational use of water by renters and the Recreation committee will now have renters sign a BOH form acknowledging the water restrictions. Charlemont has had its first beaver complaint in years, and described the challenges of beaver deceivers, and the options and requirements for BOHs under state law. The only local trapper is in Leverett. Buckland’s BOH recently passed regulations (based on those in Greenfield) that allow the Board to require an entity to hire outside consultants to investigate major nuisances. These nuisances may be brought to the BOH with the signature of ten residents, but action is at the discretion of the Board. They anticipate it may be invoked when Mohawk puts in its new pellet boiler. Monroe also has a beaver issue, and is seeing some progress with the mill building.