



Hudson Board of Health

78 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
(978) 562-2020

MINUTES

November 13th, 2023

5:30 pm

Hudson Town Hall

3rd Floor Conference Room

Board Members: Michael Delfino, Allyson O'Malley, Cassia Monteiro

1. **Preliminaries:**

- a. **Call Meeting to Order** – Mr. Delfino called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
- b. **Approval of Minutes from 10.10.2023** – Ms. O'Malley motioned to approve the minutes from 10.10.2023. Ms. Monteiro seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

2. **Vouchers to be Approved** – Ms. Monteiro motioned to approve the vouchers. Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

3. **Housing Updates:**

- a. **25 Crump St. – Septic:** Mr. Poole of Lakeview Engineering Associates was present to explain the needs at 25 Crump St. relevant to the new septic system that will be installed. Mr. Poole explained that there are a series of waivers being requested, all that fall under two categories: 1) Depth to Groundwater 2) Minimum Setback Distances. See attached letter from Mr. Poole for full detail on these waiver requests. Ms. Antonelli, Health Director, explained that the Department would like a well test to be conducted to ensure that the well is not contaminated and, if it is found to be, a new well should be installed. Mr. Poole agrees with this and explained that if they do have to install a new well, it will be in the same location and would need to be a full casement well.
 - Ms. Monteiro motioned to approve all of the waiver requests as worded in the attached document subject to passing a well test. Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

4. **Discussion – The Keeping of Animals in Hudson:** Under the Hudson Board of Health, the Town currently has regulations regarding the keeping of animals – “The Control of Keeping of Animals in the Town of Hudson – Regulation No. 07-1, superseding 95-4. Ms. Antonelli explained that this agenda item was placed on the agenda due to an increase in reports from the community regarding rats. Rat complaints we received are typically associated with nearby chicken coops. Ms. Antonelli explained that, per our current

regs, chickens (though no roosters) are allowed in the Town of Hudson. The Health Department inspects coops when concerns are brought to the Department's attention; however, we do not have a formal permitting process and there are minimal standards outlined in the regulations regarding the keeping of chickens. Ms. Antonelli proposed to the Board to review our current regs and discuss if we should make changes. Mr. Delfino explained that in Waltham they regulate chickens via a special permitting process that requires having adequate pest control. The Board expressed that they do not want to ban chickens outright, and that possibly the Select Board could implement a regulation related to acreage requirements. The Board decided to continue this discussion and Ms. Antonelli will do more research to see how other municipalities handle issues of rats, chickens and the keeping of animals in general.

5. **Migrant Response:** Ms. Antonelli explained that the Health Department continues to work with the homeless/newly arrived families placed in Hudson in the absence of a state-assigned service provider. There are currently 32 families being housed for a total of 99 individuals, 10 of which are pregnant women.

Adjournment:

Ms. Monteiro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 pm. Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Next Meeting:

December 12, 2023 at 5:30pm at Hudson Town Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room