

TOWN OF UXBRIDGE

Board of Health
21 South Main Street
Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569
Telephone: (508) 278-8600 Ext.8
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Minutes of the Uxbridge Board of Health hybrid meeting held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Present: Dr. David Tapscott, Chair Dr. Joann Lindenmayer, Vice Chair and Dr. Cay DenHerder, Member

Also present: Kaitlin Donahue, Health Inspector Missy Kakela-Boisvert, Administrative Assistant, Richard Joubert owner of RTB, Inc., John Markmann, and Gunner Merchant

Present Via Zoom: Erin Hightower, Health Director

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uxbridge.zoom.us/j/84455268073?pwd=KFd4f1jtZfuJanPXEOdi8pkbHrA3dU.1>

Meeting ID: 844 5526 8073

Passcode: 293117

Meeting called to order:

The time being 6:00 PM and a quorum present, Dr. David Tapscott, Chair called the meeting to order.

Vote to send letter of support for Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission's (CMRPC) project, Happiness Factor – please see the attached letter.

Dr. Lindenmayer made a motion to send a letter of support. Dr. DenHerder seconds the motion and motion passed. Unanimously with a vote of 3-0-0. Dr. David Tapscott – aye, Dr. Lindenmayer – aye, Dr. DenHerder - aye

Review of Body Art Practitioner applicant – 412B North Main Street – Erin explained the applicant Gunner Merchant had submitted his application. Currently we require proof of the number of hours they have acquired either as a practitioner or as an apprenticeship. He had done his apprenticeship in Rhode Island. The State of Rhode Island gives a registration number for apprenticeships. We could not get confirmation from the State of Rhode Island that the required hours had been completed. Erin thought this should be discussed with the Board. Kaitlin did talk to the owner of the body art establishment and confirmed that Mr. Merchant had completed 1,800 hours and the owner of the body art establishment did send a letter too.

Dr. Lindenmayer made a motion to approve the body art practitioner permit to Gunner Merchant. Dr. DenHerder seconds the motion and motion passed. Unanimously with a vote of 3-0-0. Dr. David Tapscott – aye, Dr. Lindenmayer – aye, Dr. DenHerder - aye

Inspection updates – Kaitlin explained there were quite a few housing inspections. Some are cases that are ongoing and some that are new. Most are owner occupied and heavy content (hoarding). Food inspections are on track. Erin and Kaitlin are active in Uhelp, which is a hoarding taskforce in conjunction with police, fire, regional public health nurse, housing authority, Tri Valley, and senior center. Dr. Lindenmayer asked if there was any animal hoarding. Neither Erin nor Kaitlin have seen that

going on with the current cases.

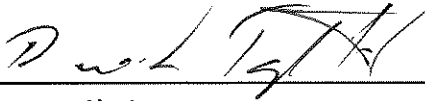
COVID and other infectious disease updates – Biobot data shows covid is down right now. Test kits are still available in Town Hall but will expire March 25, 2024.

Shared Service Grant Update (Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health - BVPPH) – Erin did not have any updates.

Approval of Meeting Minutes -

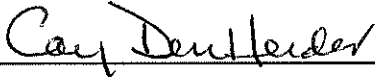
Dr. Lindenmayer moved to approve the February 27, 2024, meeting minutes as written. Dr. DenHerder seconded and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of Dr. David Tapscott – aye, Dr. Lindenmayer – aye, Dr. DenHerder - aye.

Motion to adjourn: *Dr. Lindenmayer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7.15 pm. Dr. DenHerder seconded and the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 3-0-0. Dr. David Tapscott – aye, Dr. Lindenmayer – aye, Dr. DenHerder - aye*

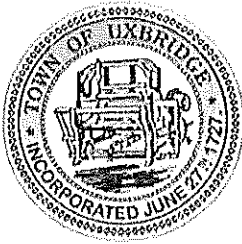


David Tapscott, Chair

Joann Lindenmayer, Vice Chair



Cay DenHerder, Member



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March 20, 2024

To whom it may concern,

We, The Uxbridge Board of Health, are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission's (CMRPC) grant application for their initiative "Discovering the Happiness Factor in Central Mass." Understanding the significance of the challenges faced by older adults in Central Massachusetts, particularly in terms of social isolation and limited access to social capital, this project is not only timely but critical.

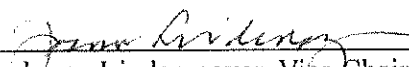
The CMRPC's initiative, as detailed in its grant proposal, seeks to explore the intricate relationship between the built environment, social connections, and the well-being of older adults in our region. The Uxbridge Board of Health acknowledges the importance of CMRPC's work, especially following their publication of the first regional Age-Friendly Plan for Central Massachusetts. Their commitment to improving the lives of older adults through thoughtful research and actionable insights aligns with our mission and values.

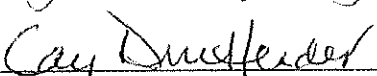
"Discovering the Happiness Factor in Central Mass" stands out for its innovative approach to understanding how different factors contribute to happiness and well-being among older adults. By focusing on the role of civic engagement and the planned environment, CMRPC aims to uncover impactful strategies to combat social isolation. This work is significant for our older community members and serves as a model for holistic, inclusive community planning that benefits all residents. Moreover, their intention to collaborate with older adults and municipal leaders to implement practical solutions demonstrates a clear pathway to making a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

Therefore, The Uxbridge Board of Health wholeheartedly supports the CMRPC's funding application for this pivotal project. We believe that "Discovering the Happiness Factor in Central Mass" will significantly enhance the quality of life for older adults in our region and pave the way for more inclusive and considerate community planning and policymaking.

Sincerely,


Dr. David Tapscott, Chair,


Dr. Joann Lindenmayer, Vice Chair


Dr. Cay DenHerder, Member