

1 **Hyde Park Local Board of Health**

2 February 2, 2022

3 Remote Meeting Minutes

4 *All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of*
5 *these minutes. Meetings may be videotaped and posted on YouTube; GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park*
6 *info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 851-1592*

7 Members Present: None

8 Members Virtual: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Chasity Fagnant; David Gagnier; Brian Shackett

9 Members Absent: Roland Boivin

10 Attendees Present: None

11 Attendees Virtual: Ron Rodjenski, Susan Dorn; Emily Peterson; Michael Rooney

12 Susan opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

13

14 1. **Local Board of Health** – Susan Bartlett re-opened the Board of Health meeting to continue the public
15 hearing on a proposed Health Order regarding 3033 Centerville Road which was continued from
16 02/01/2022. The Board reviewed the 01/27/2022 Notice of Intent to Issue a Health Order which included
17 32 “initial” violations of the housing standards as itemized on the VT Department of Health’s “Vermont Town
18 Health Officer Rental Housing Inspection Report” used by Hyde Park Town Health Officer Keith Ulrich. The
19 Board discussed the current situation with tenant Emily Peterson and property owners Michael Rooney and
20 Susan Dorn. Michael stated he was still charging rent, but Emily noted that on January 22, 2022 she sent
21 notice to Michael and Susan D. that she would not be paying rent due to the living conditions. Michael
22 stated they have no intentions of renting the home again until major renovations are completed. Emily
23 stated she was paying \$600 per month and almost that same amount in heating fuel and electricity costs.
24 Emily stated that the conditions worsened when a small addition to the home was removed in August 2021,
25 resulting in more cold air entering the kitchen and freezing heating pipes numerous times in January 2022.
26 Emily stated she has been looking for alternative housing but their a no options for her and her two pets in
27 Lamoille County. Susan Dorn agreed it would be in Emily’s best interest to leave the home noting she and
28 Michael would not want to be responsible if anything happened. Emily stated she is only looking for three
29 improvements: 1) now and ice shield at front door, a lockable front door an adequate heat. Susan Dorn
30 stated that there were electrical issues that could start a fire. Susan Bartlett noted that a final health order
31 would be cost the property owners, or they could help finding alternate housing. Michael stated they tried
32 to hire someone for a small roof over the front door but no one was available and he believed that a shovel
33 is needed now, not a roof. Michael noted that the home is an old farmhouse with no wall insulation and
34 adding anti-freeze to heat system was only possible with “fin pipe” was not available. Emily disagreed and
35 stated Fred’s could come out to complete the work, but Michael did not authorize the work. The Board
36 understood that repairs can be delayed and costly, but tenants need to have safe housing. Susan Bartlett
37 asked if the property owners would do anything to fix the violations and Michael responded that they would
38 do reasonable things but that the length of time she stays is unknown and he feels that affects the number
39 of repairs that should be done. Emily stated she is on a wait list at a local housing agency but no estimated
40 date for an available unit was provided. The Board agreed to continue the hearing to review the violations
41 in the housing inspection report and draft health order. Ron will check with the town attorney to see what
42 the town’s role is, if any, regarding paying or not paying rent during this proceeding or health order. Motion
43 by Brian to continue the Local Board of Health Hearing to 02/10/2022 at 6:00 PM. Seconded by Dave.
44 Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.

45 2. **Adjourn** – Motion by Brian to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chasity, so voted at 10:37 a.m.