

July 8, 2025 Tuesday

Leyden Board of Health Agenda
Meeting to be held at Town Offices at 5 pm

1. Review of minutes from June 3
2. Movement Retreat dba Bent Birch
3. Updates from Health Agents
4. Fiscal year 2026 business
5. Purple air quality sensors
6. Ideas for webpage changes
7. Next meeting TBD

8/5/25

BESS letter in agenda.
From Agent

Update to Minutes 6/13.

- ① FRCOG letter to State re: BESS
- ② Received regulation.
- ③ Body Act 1055 from Gill/Shelburne
- ④ Nothing from MTHU.
- ⑤ Purchased 20 tree copiers.
- ⑥ Letter to fire chief re: fire response resources for BESS.

Hawley

Eversource

Life Support Notification



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

June 10, 2025

Dear DEP, BFPR and DOER Public Officials:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment before issuing guidance on the public health, safety, and environmental impacts of electric battery storage and electric vehicle chargers.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments serves and represents the most rural county of Massachusetts. Our 26 municipalities are small and have limited staff capacity. Therefore, the majority of towns depend on volunteer firefighters and rely on mutual aid for firefighting. Additionally, towns depend on the FRCOG for the provision of municipal services, like inspectional services (building, plumbing and wiring) and public health (nursing and health agents).

We are glad to provide rural considerations for two questions posed by DEP. Our focus and concern is mostly on battery storage siting.

1. What topics should the guidance address related to the public health, safety and environmental impacts of electric battery storage and electric vehicle chargers?

- Siting of electric battery storage facilities should be prohibited in public water supply zones and on top of aquifers.
- The guidance should protect municipal, regional and state resources that are important to the Commonwealth's economy and climate resiliency goals, such as farmland and untouched forest.
- The guidance should require adherence to all NFPA 855 standards and all subsequent NFPA related standards.
- Siting criteria should ensure that municipalities can reach the BESS site with adequate quantity of water for firefighting.
- Given that battery storage sites emit continuous noise, the guidance should establish noise level standards that ensure siting is an adequate distance from homes and businesses.
- The guidance should require that the owner of battery facilities are responsible for decommissioning and that municipalities have the right to pursue damages from owners in the event of abandonment or mismanagement of battery facilities.

2. How can the guidance be most useful for the public, municipal officials, and the BESS and EV charger industries?

- DEP, BFPR and DOER should provide municipalities with:
 - Clear and accurate information about siting and the risks associated with battery storage, and

**Leyden Board of Health
Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: July 8, 2025	Time started: 5:02pm	Time adjourned: 6:34pm
Location:		
Present:	Beth, Devorah, Marcia, Randy	Absent:
Minutes submitted by:	Marcia Miller	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS
Minutes	Motion to approve minutes; Devorah 1, Beth2, all in favor		
Action Items of June meeting	Beth has received copies of recently passed regulations and will post to BOH web pages Beth has sent a letter to the Fire Chief regarding equipment needed to fight a BESS fire Body Art regulations: Conway is writing new regulations, and we will wait to see theirs	Beth	Post regs
BESS	Beth presented the letter from Linda Dunlavy. We will read it over and discuss it at the next meeting Maureen and Kurt are working through training and will be available to present the topic to us or a town wide meeting.	Beth	Read letter. How can we add Leyden comments to it.
Movement Retreat	Representing Bent Birch were Eli Feghali and Atty Peter Lane Atty Lane states that Bent Birch will be used as an educational center only. No weddings, events, gatherings etc. other than for educational purposes. Because of this it is exempt from STR regulations. The sleeping areas (dormitories) would be for participants in the educational program. The kitchen will not be utilized for food prep, instead they will have licensed caterers who come in or, on occasion, potluck meals. Atty Lane and Donna MacNichols will be discussing the details. There was much discussion around their application for a 501C3 status. This does not apply to BOH. It was advised to have well tested.	Eli F Atty Lane	Beth will contact the town coordinator to get us in contact with Atty Nichols

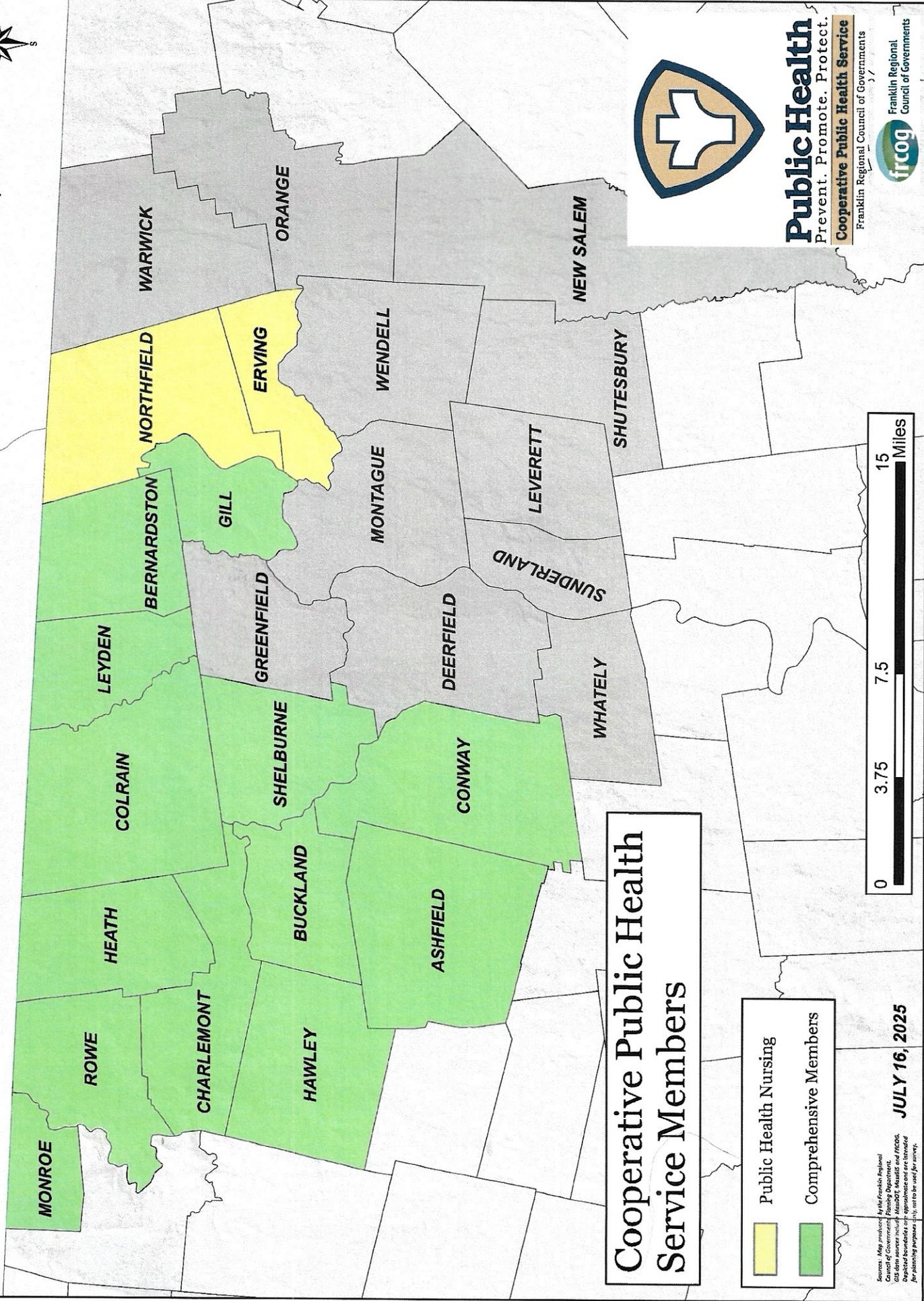
**Leyden Board of Health
Board Meeting Minutes**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS
Health agent updates	<p>Bernardston has signed on to the FRCOG for Title 5 inspections and Ashfield has signed on as a comprehensive town. This means more work, so they are looking at hiring more people. There are 14 camps up and running. Camp Lion Knoll is going well</p> <p>Lots of temporary food vendors permit. At least one every weekend this summer</p> <p>Permitted septic haulers include Greg's, Bosley, Steve's and Houghton</p>	Randy	
Beginning of fiscal year 2026	<p>Marcia nominated Beth as chairperson, Devorah seconded, all in favor</p> <p>Motion to accept FRCOG CPHS agents appointed to BOH</p> <p>Town hall water testing, COA responsible (report to BOH)</p> <p>Pavillion water testing, REC Dept responsibility (usually beginning of summer) (report to BOH)</p> <p>Septic pumping, town coordinator is responsible (report to BOH)</p> <p>We need to appoint the town clerk as our burial agent. This will be an agenda item at our next meeting</p>	Beth	Appointing a burial agent
Purple Air Quality Sensor	<p>We will be receiving one from the FRCOG. It will require both power and WIFI. SB working with town maintenance as to where it is best to place it.</p>	Beth	Follow up



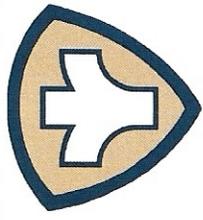
New Hampshire

Vermont



Cooperative Public Health Service Members

- Public Health Nursing
- Comprehensive Members



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Cooperative Public Health Service
Franklin Regional Council of Governments



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Source: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.

JULY 16, 2025