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Approved

Adams Board of Health – Public Meeting Minutes
1st Floor Mahogany Room (in-person only)
Wednesday, September 13, 2023

BOH Members Present: Chairman Dr. David Rhoads, Co-Chair Dr. Amy Oberlin, Member Ms. Jess Wilson

BOH Members Not Present:

Others Present: Sherrie Leon-Administrative Assistant, Howard Rosenberg – Select Board Member, Sarah Lesure, Code Enforcement

Call to Order: Dr. Rhoads called the meeting to order September 13th at 4:00pm. Dr. Rhoads mentioned that it is being recorded.

Public Comment: N/A

Approval of Minutes:

- **June 7:** Approval of minutes; Dr Rhoads postponed approval to October meeting.
- **August 2:** Updates to minutes; Dr Rhoads postponed approval to October meeting.
 - Dr Rhoads asked page 2 be updated with Howard Roseberg's offer to inquire with Town Administration about the Solid Waste Disposal.
 - Sarah Lesure, Code Enforcement stated she has not been certified to witness Title 5.
 - Update new administrative assistant
 - Website: Sherrie Leon gave an update on the changes to the BOH and Building Commissioner tabs and selection under Government.

Public Hearing: Private Well Regulations; (4:15 PM) Dr Rhoads moved to deliberate on the draft since there was no attendees from the public who attended the meeting.

Dr Rhoads said the permit fee of \$150.00 for decommissioning was reasonable and will add to the regulations. He reviewed the regulations and updated any necessary changes to the template.

Dr Rhoads said the regulations have been adopted today. He asked if an announcement as a public notice would be required and will reach out to Attorney Ed St. John to clarify.

Dr Rhoads stated that October 15, 2023 will be the effective date and create a public notice to announce the new regulations. He will print and sign at the next meeting.

Dr Rhoads motioned to adopt updated Private Well Regulations as revised, Dr Oberlin so moved, Ms. Wilson 2nd. All voted yes unanimously.

New Business:

RECEIVED-POSTED
OCT -5 AM 10:17
TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
ERK

- Any?

Code Enforcement Officer:

- **Report:** Mrs. Lesure catching up from being out and no new items to report. Certificate inspections will begin next week with the Building Inspector, Fire Chief and Board of Health.

Hearing: Review of tobacco sales permit for Anee Liquor, Inc. dba O'Geary's Package Store, Inc.

Dr Rhoads stated they are one week into their suspension. Dr. Rhoads visited the package store and only witnessed cigarettes and cigars being sold. As far as he could see they are complying with the state law. He continued to say there were no visible signs of vaping products. He stated that their 30-day suspension ends on October 5, 2023. According to previous conversation with Attorney Ed St. John, Dr. Rhoads explained that their license cannot be suspended without a public announcement. Dr Rhoads will schedule a hearing on October 4, 2024 for possibly suspending their license or their permit to run concurrently. Dr Rhoads said that they are complying and this is their 1st infraction but failed to show for the hearing today.

Amy Oberlin wanted clarification on their suspension. Dr Rhoads explained that they are required to purchase items from a legit supplier and because they had product with no visible tax stamps it resulted in their suspension.

Sarah Lesure said she would be interested in taking a class to be able to identify illegal products. Tobacco awareness program are professionals to enforce the law.

Dr Rhoads asked for permission to write a second letter to announce the hearing in October.

Dr. Rhoads requested a motion to write a second letter, Dr. Oberlin so moved, Ms. Wilson seconded. All voted yes unanimously.

Old Business:

- **Training status:** Dr Rhoads would like the database of certifications to be maintained by Sherrie Leon. Dr Oberlin asked if we need a central repository of all of the certificates? She also asked if it is a benefit to the town to track certifications? She volunteered to compile a spreadsheet. Dr Rhoads mentioned it is recommended as elected officials that 28 certifications are completed. Sarah Lesure will share any of her certifications with the Board.
- **Current priority for training:** National Incident Management System (NIMS) & Incident Command System (ICS)
- **Title 5 installations:** BCBOHA list of certified septic installers/policy on revocation/webpage tab put off to the next meeting. Dr Rhoads is trying to compile a list of certified septic installers. Dr Rhoads will push this subject to the next meeting.
- **Other website updates:** Sherrie Leon explained the changes to the BOH and Building Commissioner sections on the website and updates in the sections under Government. She

updated the documents as fillable forms for Property Registration and the Vacant & Abandoned Registration. She will be updating the Pre-Rental form with explanation to be updated as well.

- Dr Rhoads updated the Private Wells Regulations which will replace the current regulations and update the Drinking Water Sources on the Town of Adams website.
- Dr Rhoads suggested that the BOH page list the emergency numbers 911 police, fire, ambulance and add 988 suicide crisis prevention.
- Status of membership MAHB and may need to renew membership Dr Rhoads will send information to Sherrie to investigate current membership status.

New Business:

- **Specialty Minerals 3rd party inspection reports:** Quarterly reports received. Dr Rhoads will forward a copy to the board members. Ms. Jess Wilson asked if they do air quality reports. Dr Rhoads will check into it.

Local & County Updates:

- **Weekly arbovirus report from DPH:** Dr Rhoads communicated the updated cases. He also conveyed cases pertaining to the the West Nile and EEE.
- **Solid Waste Disposal:** Dr Rhoads asked Howard Rosenberg for an update of the Solid Waste Disposal after communicating with the Town Administrator. Howard Rosenberg asked what is the key issue? He clarified that the issue had to do with who is responsible.

Dr Rhoads spoke with Linda Cernick who manages the anti waste in sixteen communities and active in getting grants. Dr Rhoads continued to say that it would be great to have a targeted grant offering ways to optimize our solid waste operation. Mr. Rosenberg asked if Dr Rhoads could work directly with Linda?

Mr Rhoads explained that the transfer station is small and said it would be nice if it was more accessible and convenient for the community. Ms. Wilson stated that as far as visibility goes and people possibly feeling that the transfer station is not easily accessible, she agrees it may not be a convenient location. She continued to say that educating people on why we encourage recycling and where to dispose of items would be beneficial to the community. She continued to say that we want to impact our community in positive ways by promoting recycling and encourage people to do so. Mr Rosenberg asked for all information in order to sell the idea for a grant.

Dr Rhoads spoke to Tim Cota (DPW) about the amount of brush that DPW picks up and brings to wastewater treatment plant to dispose of. There is enormous amount of brush that is building up.

DR Rhoads will resend the info to Howard on the solid waste disposal. Ms. Wilson asked if their could be a control burn? Dr Rhoads said you are not allowed to burn it. Mr Rosenberg recommended there needs to be a long term plan and go after one issue at a time. He continued to say we need a comprehensive plan to achieve this goal and someone involved with the expertise to get this accomplished.

Upcoming Events:

- **NBSWMD:** Bulky/Electronics Collections - Lanesborough (9/16), Clarksburg (10/7)
- **BPHA Governing Board, Thursday, Sept 21** Dr Rhoads will attend the meeting and will gather further information of septic installers.
- **BCBOHA** Fall dinner, Thursday, Oct 12, 5-7:30pm; Dr Rhoads said that the speaker will be Susan Waite, MAC.
Dr Rhoads invited Linda Cernick and would like to take the money out of the discretionary funds to pay for her ticket to attend.
Dr Rhoads motioned to use \$45.00 out of the discretionary fund for Linda's ticket, Dr Oberlin so moved. All voted yes unanimously.

Review Mail:

- **BCBOHA** calendar for September & beyond

For the Good of the Order:

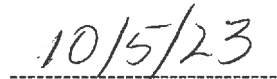
- **Health initiative 2024,** Dr Rhoads asked everyone to think about ideas for the next meeting to prepare for 2024.
- **Opiod deaths for municipality and all towns in Berkshire County.** Dr. Amy Oberlin suggested next year we partner with Crime Reduction and hand out Narcan. She recently attended a street fest in North Adams where they handed out Narcan and explained how to use it. Ms. Wilson showed a pouch of different first aid items for testing drugs as another idea.

Schedule Next Meeting: October 4, November 1

Adjournment: Dr Rhoads motioned to adjourn. Ms. Wilson so moved, Dr. Oberlin seconded. All members voted yes unanimously. Adjourned at 5:21pm.



Sherrie Leon
Administrative Assistant



Date