



TOWN HALL  
8 Park Street, Suite 203  
Tel (413) 743-8300 EXT. 179  
FAX (413) 743-8316

APPROVED

## **Adams Board of Health – Public Meeting Minutes**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Mahogany Room (in-person only)

Wednesday, November 1, 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, Sarah Lesure, Code Enforcer

**Call to Order:** Dr. Rhoads called the meeting to order November 1, 2023 at 4:00pm. Dr. Rhoads stated that the meeting is being recorded.

**Public Comment:** N/A

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- **October 4, 2023:** Approval of minutes

Dr Rhoads motion to approve all the minutes as corrected, Dr Amy Oberlin so moved, Jess Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup>; All members voted yes unanimously.

**Public Hearing:** None

### **Code Enforcement Officer:**

- **Report:** Sarah Lesure had no issues or updates to report. Dr Rhoads asked about her training to witness the Title V and she confirmed her training is scheduled for the Spring 2024.

### **Old Business:**

- **Private Well Regulations:** Dr Rhoads stated that a notice announcing the updated Private Well Regulations was published in the *Berkshire Eagle* on 9/18/23. Dr Rhoads reviewed the new regulations and mentioned that according to local regulations, when a home is being sold, private wells are required to be tested. He asked Ms. Lesure if she agreed that it should be part of the regulations and she stated that it is beneficial for a buyer purchasing a property. Dr Rhoads continued to say that if any homeowner needs repairs or there is any alteration to the well they must use a certified contractor according to state and local code.
- **Website updates:** Dr Rhoads informed the members that the 988 Call Line is confidential and does not track incoming phone numbers.
- **Ideas for 2024 public health program**
  - Massachusetts is looking into creating resources for cooling centers starting next Spring. Dr Rhoads mentioned that the COA would be a location for people to take advantage of cool air. He went on to say that there will Grant funds available.

- RU OK Senior Program: RUOK is an abbreviation for “are you OK?” This is a program for elderly to sign up and receive an automated call starting in the morning up to 3 times as a wellness check and if no one picks up the police would check on them. Program is run through the police department. Dr Oberlin asked if BOH would have control of it since it is currently being run by the Police. Dr Rhoads said it would be a collaborative effort and asked what would it take to start a program like this in our community?
- Jess Wilson proposed an idea for family gatherings at some of the parks in town. She suggested collaborating with Parks & Recreation to collectively come up with outdoor activities to bring all family members of the community together at the parks. Ms. Wilson went on to say how nice it would be to add a pavilion for family members to gather along with additional family activities. Dr Oberlin asked if fundraising would be allowed. Dr Rhoads said it would be possible and suggested that Jess Wilson pursue this idea and reach out to Kevin Raynor, Community Development.
- **Solid Waste Advisory Committee update**
  - Dr Rhoads mentioned that Howard Rosenberg, Select Board Member picked up the ball for Solid Waste Advisory and said he was hoping for more information. Dr Rhoads and Linda Cernik created a memo regarding what they felt Solid Waste Advisory committee should be; including grants to facilitate town recycling. Dr Rhoads said Mr. Rosenberg volunteered to present the memo to Christine Hoyt and Jay Green about a week ago and at this time is still pending response.

#### **New Business:**

- **Revising our tobacco sales regulations:** Dr Rhoads had a long talk with Jim Wilusz about updating our regulations. He continued to explain how the changes would be presented through a public hearing and a letter would be mailed to the vendors informing them of the scheduled date. He would like to update language about maintaining their licenses in order to retain their local sales permit. He continued to say the regulations will include language explaining when the DOR suspends their license, the Board of Health is notified and a letter will be mailed informing the vendor of a scheduled public hearing. Dr Rhoads will present changes to the regulations at the next meeting.

#### **Local & County Updates:**

- **Weekly arbovirus report from DPH-** Dr Rhoads did not receive the weekly update.
- **BCBOHA dinner update on recycling** (Susan Waite, Municipal Assistance Coordinator)
  - Dr Amy Oberlin stated the meeting was action packed and learned from Susan Waite that the recycling program for plastic bottles continues to be a successful program.
  - Recycling dividends program is a grant program that Adams would like to tap into so that the town can begin their recycling program.
  - Dr Rhoads mentioned that there is a recycling facility in Springfield. Dr Rhoads mentioned possibly creating a way to send Adams recycling to Springfield as Egremont currently does.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Any?

#### **Review Mail:**

- **Adams Excavating DEP recycling permit renewal (see current application):**  
Sherrie Leon to print the current application from BCBOHA calendar for October & beyond. Dr Rhoads will write and mail an approval letter.
- **Other?**

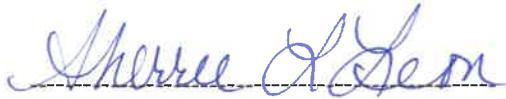
**For the Good of the Order:**

- **EPA** considering ban on trichloroethylene (TCE, chemical linked to the Woburn cancer cluster) Dr Rhoads recently read an article in the Globe.
  - Sarah Lesure asked what household products this chemical can be found? Dr Rhoads and Dr Oberlin stated that this chemical seems to be widely used in many products.
- **DEP licenses:** Dr Rhoads often communicates with DEP and they recently invited him to go on an inspection at Specialty Minerals. He was very impressed with the inspection.

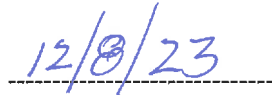
**Schedule Next Meeting:** December 6, January 10

**Adjournment:**

Dr Rhoads motioned to adjourn., Jess Wilson so moved, Dr. Oberlin 2nd. All members voted yes unanimously. Adjourned at 4:54 pm.



Sherrie Leon  
Administrative Assistant



Date