



TOWN HALL  
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APPROVED

**Adams Board of Health – Public Meeting Minutes**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Mahogany Room (in-person only)**  
**Wednesday, December 6, 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 December 6, 2023, at 4:00pm. Dr. Rhoads stated that the meeting is being recorded.

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **November 1, 2023:** Approval of minutes

Dr Rhoads motion to approve the November 1, 2023, 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 reported that the Certificate of Inspections have been completed by herself, Building Inspector and Fire Chief Pansecchi by the deadline of November 30, 2023. She also said that Property Registration reminders were mailed out to all multi-family/multi use property owners. We have received over 160 forms updating our contact information on a spreadsheet and in paper form filed in a notebook.
- Dr Rhoads requested a report listing all permits by category and fee income for 2023 from Sarah Lesure. She will provide this information after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the new year.

**Old Business:**

**Tobacco Regulations:** Recommended revisions; schedule a public hearing for January 10, 2024. Dr Rhoads reviewed the proposed revisions section E.3 & G.1. He continued reading the section; "Suspension or revocation of a DOR Tobacco Retailer License is cause for the *BOARD* to suspend or revoke the *PERMIT HOLDER's* Tobacco Product Sales Permit."

Dr Rhoads visited Exxon and Oasis; they all said they did not receive any free samples from distributors. Dr Oberlin asked Dr Rhoads to give more details on the free products. Dr Rhoads considers a suspension a sufficient punishment and will remove the non-criminal disposition. Dr Rhoads asked Sherrie Leon to send emails with the updated regulations to the eleven vendors in town. Sarah Lesure's stated that repeat offenders may warrant further action. Dr Oberlin asked if this action was taken, would they be able to reapply for their permits.

Dr Rhoads said there were only so many available in town.

He drafted a letter to email/mail to tobacco vendors as a courtesy to share the updates.

- **Solid Waste Advisory Committee update:** Dr Rhoads said there is no update. Jay Green told Howard Rosenberg that he won't be ready to discuss it until after January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Website updates:** None
- **Private Well follow-up:** Dr Rhoads's informed Board members that a pump replacement is *not* considered a well repair.
- **Ideas for 2024 public health program**
- Dr Rhoads asked Jess Wilson if she had a chance to speak with Kevin Raynor, Community Development. Ms. Wilson has not but will reach out to Kevin Rayner.
- He also mentioned that Kyomi Belanger is now administrative assistant for Community Development.
- Dr Rhoads did some investigating the RUOK Senior program in Adams and found out it was discontinued for software problems several years ago.
  - Dr Rhoads explained the Egremont Senior program is the only one in Berkshire County; explained that the program is limited and only serves seniors during the week. Jess Wilson asked about the Senior Center and if they have a list of all the Seniors in Adams. Dr Rhoads confirmed that the COA does have a list and they reach out to Seniors on their birthdays.
  - Dr Rhoads said it would be nice to have better communication with the Senior Center (COA). He would like to find new ways that the Board of Health can support the Center and work closely together for the community. Jess Wilson mentioned what a great job the COA is doing for the community.
  - Dr Rhoads said that Sarah Fontaine mentioned that the heat is a problem and not consistent throughout the COA building.

#### **New Business:**

- **Adams Vegetation Management Plan:** Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) hearing taking place at the library December 15th, 9AM that Dr Rhoads would like to attend.

Dr Rhoads asked if Sarah Lesure, code enforcer has a list of private wells on record of what the setbacks are for them. She said we do not have a list of private well locations and would have to be newly researched.

- **BPHA inspectional tool kit loan:** Dr Rhoads postponed. He will provide a list of equipment available for Sarah Lesure to review and identify if she can utilize any for her inspections.

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

- **Public Health Nursing Q1 report (Jul-Aug):** Dr Rhoads provided a brief summary-
- **Weekly arbovirus report from DPH-** Dr Rhoads has not seen the report in a while but mentioned that there was a 6<sup>th</sup> virus case diagnosed.
- **Ticks are active:** Jess Wilson suggested that Tick information should be added to Adams' website to give people a heads up that ticks are still active. She continued to say that being proactive in communicating this information to the town will help prevent as many complications as possible for the public.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Dr Rhoads mentioned that the Emergency Preparedness Conference is being held in Ohio in March 2024. The Health Alliance may be able to fund a few people who may be interested. Jess Wilson mentioned she was very interested in attending the conference. Dr Rhoads said he would check the budget for training money available to help fund the trip.

**Review Mail:**

- **BCBOHA** calendar for December & beyond
- Dr Rhoads communicated that The Berkshire Eagle ran a special publication with 24-page guide; **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide**. This guide is to help you reduce trash, reuse durable items, and recycle everything you can. Dr Rhoads will have the guide added to the Board of Health on the town website to share with everyone.

**For the Good of the Order:**

- Dr Rhoads showed an email about spam to prevent people from clicking suspicious links.


**Schedule Next Meeting:** January 10 (scheduled), February 7

**Adjournment:**

Dr Rhoads motioned to adjourn., Dr Oberlin so moved, Jess Wilson 2nd. All members voted yes unanimously. Adjourned at 5:15 pm.



Sherrie Leon  
Administrative Assistant



Date