

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
MARCH 7, 2018**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Hoyt called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. 18 APR -9 AM 10:36

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Peter Hoyt, Vice-Chairman David Rhoads, Bruce Shepley, Tom Romaniak (Code Enforcement), Pam Gerry (Administrative Assistant)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jack Guerino, (iBerkshires)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the February 14 meeting was circulated. B. Shepley moved to accept, D. Rhoads seconded & the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CLOSED CASES:** We voted unanimously to close the following cases.

- 33 Grove St.: Paint peeling & dead rats found in apartment unit. The tenants have moved out of the unit, which was condemned last month. The live-in owner does not plan to re-rent it.
- 25 Pine St.: Trash reported on one side of home, refrigerator on other. The offense has been remedied.
- 76 Howland Ave.: Overflowing trash containers, a repeat offense for this apartment building. Excess trash accumulates between pick-ups. The trash that was subject of this complaint has been removed.

**CURRENT CASES:** The following cases were investigated but will remain open until resolution.

- 9 Marshall Ave.: Construction debris on neighbor's property. T. Romaniak spoke with the owner, who didn't know it was there & indicated that he would clean it up.
- 8-10 Depot St.: The brown roof tarp, used to cover a roof leak on this abandoned building, is still flapping in wind (i. e. no change). T. Romaniak spoke to an individual working on the property, who said that he would speak with the owner. T. Romaniak will continue to monitor the situation.
- 72 Friend St.: Trash buildup in rear of property. T. Romaniak issued a fine last month & issued another order to comply. 80% of the trash was gone on 3/6. T. Romaniak will continue to monitor the property.

**VIOLATIONS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Tri-Town's Tobacco Grant: P. Hoyt has been in communication with Jim Wilusz, who expects to hear sometime soon (timeframe for award announcements was late February / early March).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Adoption of online permitting & "notebook" inspections: The Board of Health Office reported that the online permitting has been successful. A few problems that arose were readily addressed by P. Gerry & Jayne Smith (Inspector, Berkshire Public Health Alliance). T. Romaniak is continuing to use paper checklists in the field because he likes the safety of having a paper back-up. Information is subsequently entered into the computer database.
- Eagle Heroin Addiction Awareness sponsorship page: The Berkshire Eagle circulated a request for sponsorship of a classified ad highlighting this issue. We agreed after several minutes of discussion that that promoting awareness of the obvious addiction problem was not a constructive use of funds. If funds, however small, could be targeted to addressing the issue directly, we would more likely be in favor.
- Inspections report (number, issues) as a possible new agenda item: T. Romaniak reported that he keeps a running total of inspections completed at his finger tip (available to anyone who might ask) & that he's not had any problems that impeded his inspections schedule. Consequentially, the Board agreed that

listing the number of inspections conducted annually in the Annual Town Report was sufficient.

#### LOCAL & COUNTY UPDATES:

- BPHA meeting 3/7 (tonight): The meeting, in fact scheduled for 3/8, was postponed due to the impending storm. The next meeting is scheduled for 4/5, after our next scheduled BOH meeting.
- FRCOG condemnation workshop 3/8: B. Shepley, who had originally planned to attend, said that he now will not, again due to the current weather situation & hoped that this workshop would be rescheduled.
- BCBOHA (next meeting 3/21): The 4/26 spring dinner date has been confirmed with Dennis Hallahan, Technical Director of Infiltrator Water Technologies, to speak on "Green Building: Environmental Impact Assessment of Onsite Systems." B. Shepley will register those interested on Monday, March 26, so please let him know by then if you wish to attend.
- Western Mass Public Health Association (mistakenly placed on agenda as "Western Mass Health & Medical Coordinating Committee" by D. Rhoads): B. Shepley is now a member of their executive committee. On a related note, a workshop he planned to attend on hoarding, bedbugs & updated regulations for camps & swimming pools scheduled for 3/2 was canceled but it will be rescheduled.

#### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- DEP training sessions on septic/soil (4/24, Northampton; 5/2, Pittsfield): We were unclear about the value of this workshop for board members and/or T. Romaniak. Is this just a refresher or a session to provide new information? Tuition is \$125. P. Hoyt will inquire & get back to the board.
- Infectious meningococcal disease letter (Smith College case). We noted the communication from Mass DPH. All members are aware of the situation & have access to resources if needed. On a related note, Allison Egan of BRPC is planning an inoculation clinic to be run as an Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) drill through Northern Berkshire REPC. The date & additional details will be forthcoming.
- T. Romaniak asked if he should purchase sunglasses for spring. We all agreed that he should. Moreover, B. Shepley offered to obtain tick identification & awareness information for distribution to the community. Mass DPH has pamphlets, etc., available for use.
- T. Romaniak will take responsibility for posting next month's agenda. D. Rhoads plans to send out a draft agenda within the next week. Please let T. Romaniak of any additions by Wednesday, March 28, so that he has sufficient time to post an up-to-date agenda.

#### REVIEW MAIL:

- A few items have arrived, nothing urgent. Members were invited to review items in the Inbox.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting was scheduled for April 4, 2018 at 4:00 pm.

**ADJOURN:** B. Shepley moved to adjourn, seconded by D. Rhoads & passed unanimously at 4:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date 4/4/18

  
  
