

**BOARD OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
JUNE 13, 2018**

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CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Rhoads called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jack Guerino, (iBerkshires); William Martischnig; Steven Wright (Property Manager, 12 Valley St.); James Daunais (Friend St.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the April 4 Hearing, April 10 Special Hearing & May 9 Hearing were circulated & unanimously approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Two individuals were heard regarding their property issues.

- Steven Wright appealed to the Board to ask that the tenant (12 Valley St.) should not be evicted for non-payment of rent (3 mos.). The apartment has code violations (no hot water among others) & the required pre-rental inspection was not requested. The owner has already been fined & the matter is in Housing Court. We agreed that the tenant was within her rights & decided to keep this case open (noted below).
- Mr. Daunais requested additional time to clear the debris from his property on 103 Friend St. He offered to provide multiple receipts for trash removal, including a premium for some items. It was noted that a roll-off was present as of Monday the 11th, so he has been progressing. Shepley noted that this has not been the first instance in which we have dealt with his debris issues. Romaniak suggested that Mr. Daunais discard his analog TVs at the District bulky waste disposal June 16th & that he would come by on Thursday, June 14th to strategize disposal of the remaining items (e.g., the Town will accept metal scrap for no charge at the Transfer Station, even without a TS permit). We agreed to give Mr. Daunais until next meeting to remove the inappropriate materials from his property. The case remains open.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

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

- 9 Marshall Ave.: Construction debris on neighbors' property was being removed, almost done.
- 9 Smith St.: Trash in back yard has been cleaned up.
- 20 First St.: A problem with electrical services had been fixed before Romaniak arrived.
- 76 Howland Ave.: Trash issues, insufficient containers. Romaniak will monitor property more often.
- 182 Columbia St.: Trash in road & sidewalk was gone when Romaniak arrived.
- 25 Pine St.: Trash in the yard had been cleaned up. Romaniak recommended the owner cover containers.
- 82 Howland Ave.: The reported deplorable fecal environment was cleaned up when Romaniak arrived.
- 6 Meadow Ln.: Report of raw sewage, leak on property was unfounded. Romaniak found no problems.
- Tracie Ave.: Report of rubbish burning, nuisance in neighborhood; Romaniak advised complainants to contact the police.
- 38 Fisk Rd.: The bad smell reported from residence was apparently merely a musty odor.
- 72 Friend St.: Reported rats in neighborhood were due to trash (not garbage), which was since removed.

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

- 3-5 Mill St.: Conditions within dwelling unit. This has been on ongoing tenant-landlord/daughter-father dispute, which is currently in Housing Court. Romaniak will continue to monitor this case.
- 6 Lower Linden St.: Apt. 2B condemned. The tenant has left & the landlord expressed a commitment to rehab the unit. Romaniak recommended that he continue to monitor the property until progress is made.
- 76 Friend St.: Trash backyard, rats. The property management company will contact the APD Animal Control Officer to determine how best to resolve this issue. Romaniak will monitor until resolved.
- 21 Murray St.: No electricity. The issue was due to an unpaid bill. However, a neighbor reported an

accumulation of trash in the backyard. Due to this second issue, we agreed to keep this case open.

- 218 Grove St.: Trash buildup. Romaniak sent orders to clean it up & will monitor progress.
- 12 Valley St.: no hot water, mold (see Public Comment, above)

VIOLATIONS (3): 25 Pine St., trash in yard; 21 Murray St., trash in yard; 12 Valley St., no pre-rental inspection.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tri-Town's Tobacco Awareness Program: Letters to merchants have been sent out.
- Tick ID Program: UMass-Amherst's program is now partially subsidized by MDPH through the end of July. Register at www.TickReport.com to obtain a case number (credit card will be charged discounted rate). Follow instructions on sending tick to UMass (in zip-lock bag with moist paper towel). Further information may be obtained by calling UMass (413-545-1057) or visiting websites for MDPH (www.mass.gov/dph/tick) or Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/ticks/diseases).
- Unoccupied properties: D. Rhoads will follow up regarding the status of selected properties.
- Narcan training: Romaniak & all 3 board members attended the May 21 presentation by Tapestry. All received Narcan kits. We acknowledged what a phenomenal resource is in addressing opioid issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

- BOH Arbovirus Coordinator & back-up for Mass DPH program: Rhoads agreed to serve as coordinator for Adams & Shepley agreed to be the back-up. Rhoads had provided DPH with our contact information.
- Unforeseen new business: Romaniak reported that Nancy Slattery of Berkshire VNA called to clarify our contract with them, given that the town had not paid the recent installment. Romaniak assured her that Adams was still using Berkshire VNA but that budgeting constraints had delayed the payment.

LOCAL & COUNTY UPDATES:

- Berkshire Co. BOH Association (5/16): Nothing new to report
- Mass Recycling Center workshop (6/21): Rhoads will attend with Linda Cernik.
- Berkshire Public Health Alliance (6/21, Rhoads to attend)
- Northern Berkshire Emergency Sheltering drill (note change in topic): Shepley informed us that the drill has been moved to July 26 & will use St. Elizabeth's in North Adams to respond to flooding. State, county & local agencies will participate.
- Western Mass Association Health Equity Summit (email 5/31; UMass Amherst, Sept. 14th)
- Western Mass soil evaluator course survey: None of us were interested (very limited need).

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Hazard Mitigation workshop follow-up (6-14): Rhoads would not be able to attend as the BOH rep. Other members were also unavailable. Minutes from that meeting should be forthcoming.

REVIEW MAIL:

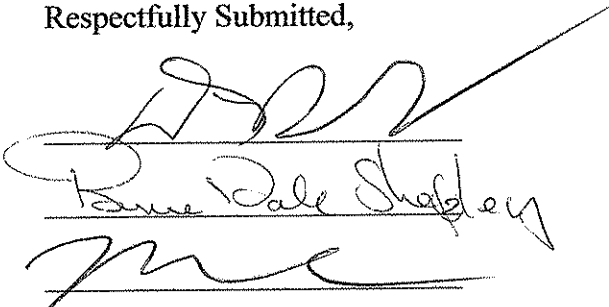
- MassDEP has approved closing of the Bassett Brook Reservoir.
- Copy of MassDEP acknowledgment to Specialty Minerals of their quarry landfill Scope of Work request.
- Also, we received notifications regarding 3 Dubis St. chickens & Cumberland Farms variance requests.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for July 11, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was passed unanimously at 5:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date 11 July 2018


Bruce Dale Shepley