

**BOARD OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2018**

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 & Pam Martischnig; James Daunais

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the July 11 were approved unanimously as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mr. Daunais reported that he has observed several open trash containers by the street throughout the town. We encouraged him to make a formal complaint with specific detail, at which point Romaniak will follow up. Romaniak informed him that trash may be left out the night before pick-up; however it sometimes remains a second day if the hauler couldn't make his usual rounds.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

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

- 12 Valley St.: No hot water, mold. This is an ongoing tenant/landlord dispute this is currently in housing court. Given our lack of authority until the court case is resolved, we've removed this case from our list.
- 4 Garfield St.: The lawn was cut yesterday.
- 38 Temple St: Trash, uncut grass. The owner has left. Someone mowed the grass. Remaining trash will be picked up in a day or two, weather permitting.
- 22 Melrose St. (corner with Marmon): Concerned neighbors left the trash in this vacant lot. The trash has been removed.
- 95 Columbia St.: The report of sewage smell & dog feces was unfounded.
- Dunkin Donuts: The air conditioning failed on an extremely hot day. Owners responded as best they could by bringing in fans & opening doors. Romaniak judged that owners responded as best they could.
- 119 Commercial St.: Rats were reported. The tenants have left & the property has been cleaned up.
- 23 Commercial St.: The trash bags seen in the back yard have been removed.
- 1-7 First St.: The reported trash build-up has been cleaned up.
- 7 Grove St.: An anonymous person reported seeing rats leaving the building. Romaniak reminded us that the property borders the river, so eradicating rats difficult, if not impossible. He observed no trash or other attractant that might draw rats.

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

- 3-5 Mill St.: Owners have been working on the dwelling unit. A dumpster has appeared.
- 76 Friend St.: The trash remains, but given the owner's death, resolution will take more time.
- 103 Friend St.: The owner has made some progress, but the task wasn't completed by our previous deadline. Among other things, a gutter in the woods behind the yard & a pile of debris in the lower yard remain. Romaniak issued a new \$50 fine. When the owner asked how he should dispose of the debris, Romaniak offered to visit him to let him know. The bottom line is that debris should be removed from sight from adjacent properties. Shepley suggested that a daily fine would induce more rapid compliance. We agreed to give the owner until Monday, August 6 to comply or daily fines would be leveled.
- 218 Grove St.: Romaniak followed up orders with a violation. Occupants refuse to come to the door for him, even though they were clearly inside. Romaniak filed for a court order earlier today.
- 12 Crandall St.: Conditions within apartment (water leak, mold, unsecured ceiling fan). The owner had asked the tenant to leave by July 31, forgiving the last 2 months rent, because she wants to sell the place. The owner has started the eviction process, but it's currently not properly prepared.

- 234 Columbia St.: Overgrown grass, dead trees (Steepleview Realty). This is an abandoned property. Romaniak is keeping in touch with the realtor.

VIOLATIONS: A few pending violations will be documented at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Timeline for temporary food vendor permit applications: We discussed contingencies for approval of temporary food vendor permits if Romaniak is unavailable. Such a situation might arise if a vendor applies for an event at the last minute. We have no deadline for such applications. Board members could potentially be trained by public health nurse Jayne Smith. Romaniak indicated that the need was low but that planners for events that used town facilities were required to file a request for facilities use to the Board of Selectmen. Rhoads said that he would follow up to assess whether that application process could be used inform event planners that the BOH requests lead time for food permits. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.
- Northern Berkshire sheltering drill: Shepley described the drill conducted earlier today, with grant funding provided by FEMA. Saint Elizabeth's Parish Center in North Adams served as the shelter, with volunteer "flooding evacuees" bused by Dufour from Adams. Participants included Regional Emergency Planning Committee, Western MA Homeland Security, MEMA & local ambulance/EMT services. Shepley said that the exercise tested several structural elements & was deemed successful. 2-3 similar exercises per year are anticipated going forward.
- West Nile Virus alert: Rhoads reported that the MassDPH has raised risk level of WNV to moderate from low in Adams, as well as several surrounding communities. Last week, MassDPH had called him, as town arbovirus contact, to inform him of the recent increase in WNV-positive mosquitoes in the area. Pittsfield & environs were already at the moderate risk level. Rhoads noted that the issue was covered in Tuesday's Berkshire Eagle (July 31). He reiterated the precautions: avoid outside activities at dawn & dusk, cloth bare skin, use insect repellent, and remove standing water.

LOCAL & COUNTY UPDATES:

- Health Equity Summit, UMass (Friday, 9/14): Rhoads reminded the Board of this upcoming summit & gave the registration fee schedule. He & Shepley will ask Laura Kittross of BRPC at the next BCBOHA Executive Committee meeting on 8/15 whether she would recommend this summit for us.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Bats/rabies: Rhoads reported that he had forwarded the MassDPH communique to Kim Witek. She said that she already follows the recommended procedures but appreciated having the formal documentation.
- The Berkshire Public Health Alliance will soon be setting up their flu vaccination clinics. Shepley will participate.
- Giant hogweed: Rhoads recounted a June Boston Globe article describing the prevalence of giant hogweed, a very toxic invasive plant. Hogweed has been found in Peru, Hinsdale, Lee & New Marlboro in Berkshire County. Eradication efforts are underway there as well as other communities in the state with hogweed. Thom Smith, the Eagle nature columnist, informed me that he will be writing a piece on hogweed in an upcoming issue. He also provided the following websites:
Hogweed status in MA with a reporting link:
https://massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/hogweed/giant_hogweed.htm
Table comparing hogweed with look-alikes:
<https://cipwg.uconn.edu/hogweedlook-alikes/>

REVIEW MAIL:

- We received notice that MassDEP has judge our water supply safe.
- Adams Excavation crushing operation: We received a copy of the MassDEP draft permit granted to Adams Excavation to crush asphalt, brick & concrete at their Howland St. site. The Public Notice for this permit was published in July 20, 2018 Eagle. Romaniak reported visiting the site & indicated that all aspects of the operation appeared to be in excellent order.
- The Berkshire VNA contract has been signed for 2018-2019 services.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for September 12, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was passed unanimously at 4:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date 9/12/2018

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