

**BOARD OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2019**

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

19 MAY -9 AM 10:19

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

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CLERK

OTHERS PRESENT: Jack Guerino, (iBerkshires); William Martischmig; Jay Green (Town Administrator); Haley Meczywor (Clerk); Gerald Garner (Building Commissioner); James Bush (Board of Selectman); Gail Sellers; Karen Rose; Cathy Foster; Beverly Favreau; Gary Singer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the March 6 meeting were approved unanimously as written.

WELCOME TO TA GREEN & BUILDING COMMISSIONER GARNER: Both Mr. Green & Mr. Gardner attended tonight's hearing. Both offered comments supporting our mission & desire to keep abreast of our efforts. Mr. Green noted that he was a former BOH chair & Mr. Garner expressed his focus on code enforcement. We welcomed their addition to our town governance & thanked them for their interest in our activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Several members of the community appeared to express their concerns regarding the accumulation of dog feces on the Ashuwillticook. Salient points of our discussion included:

- Dog feces presents a significant health hazard. Droppings may take a year to decompose & pathogens may survive in the soil long afterward. Attendees provided numerous stories of huge accumulations in some trail sections. Attempts to deal with the problem are often thwarted, e.g. doggy bags are stolen, securities cameras are taken down & confronted violators angrily refuse. Several presented signs used by other communities. A trail clean-up sponsored by Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District was offered as a possible short-term solution, but Mr. Bush noted that feces was not included due to the health hazard (underlining the point). It was also noted that dog feces also contaminates the Greylock Glen Loop & town streets in general. The board thanked the attendees for their strong presentation and, acknowledging that we could not take any action at this time, ended the Public Comment period.
- Summary of suggestions: (i) More & better signage, with catchy messages & noting a \$50 fine; (ii) More bag dispensers, possibly more trash receptacles; (iii) Require dog walkers to carry bags; (iv) Include flier with annual dog license application; (v) Promote the issues, including the potential pathogen transmission, on BOH website, Facebook, cable TV, etc.; (vi) Confront violators, including photo documentation; (vii) Foster respect (viii) Install security cameras; (ix) Have DPW sweep the trail.
- Action Plan: We will use the time until our next meeting to develop strategies in collaboration with other town agencies & stakeholders as well as to explore how other communities have addressed this problem. The issue will be added as New Business to our May 8 Hearing.
- **PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

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

- 31 Bellevue Ave.: No electricity. This was restored, so the immediate issue is resolved. However, the situation remains vexed, with the landlord in jail & a water shut-off potentially looming.
- 23 Commercial St.: Trash build up. This was picked up. However, more trash was back 2 days later, requiring another visit by Romaniak to demand its removal. This may be a chronic situation.
- 6 Lehs Ln: Trash build up. A winter accumulation was removed.
- 8 Back Row: Trash build up. An overflow occurred just prior to regular Monday pick-up, now gone.

OPEN CASES: Romaniak recommended keeping the following cases open, which he will continue to monitor.

- 12 Crandall St.: Repair status (water leak, mold, unsecured fan) – Two receivers are interested in acquiring this property as well as 12 Valley St.
- 12 Valley St. (Roof leaks, plumbing issues) – See above.
- 64 Summer St.: Trash build up. Most was picked up. Some cardboard remains frozen to the ground.
- Ashuwillticook-Dog feces. See above. We will take this up under New Business next month.

VIOLATIONS: No violations were issued since our last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Follow-up on waste hauler questions: Rhoads is still working on letter templates for haulers. However, he suggested that we ask the Clerk to add a "Waste Disposal Resources" tab to the BOH website, in which we could include our regulations, the state list of banned materials, Mr. Towle's recyclable materials graphic & a DEP graphic on dual-stream recycling.
- Follow-up on temporary food vendor permit application deadline: Still no formal update.
- Emergency Management Plan: Rhoads distributed his current version of our detailed emergency responsibilities, asking the other members to pitch in on filling in the gaps. He noted that the next step for the Emergency Planning Committee was for Emergency Management Director Richard Kleiner to meet individually with town agencies. Rhoads will arrange the meeting.
- Short-term rentals: This discussion was tabled as state code has yet to be released (the law goes into effect July 1 with a September 1 registration deadline). Rhoads suggested that we wait to write our regulations & make them effective January 1, 2020.
- FY2020 BOH budget: Rhoads will attend the budget workshop tomorrow night on behalf of the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Vaping follow-up (review tobacco reg's?): Hoyt reported that he had provided Hoosac Valley teacher Kathy Hill with anti-vaping materials from Joyce Brewer. Ms. Hill also passed the material to a 2nd interested teacher. Both were eager to present the materials in class as well as become sponsors for an 84 Chapter (student peer-to-peer anti-tobacco organization). Clerk Meczywor agreed to post public health information on our website under new tabs along with "Regulations," etc. Hoyt volunteered to assemble a series of brochures & other information on vaping to be placed in a new tab entitled "Vaping Information." When asked, Ms. Meczywor indicated that a vote was not needed.
- BOH website: "Waste resources," "Vaping info," "Health tips," etc.: See above & above.
- Posting "Agenda Template" on the Town Calendar when available: Rhoads reported that Clerk Meczywor informed him that an agenda couldn't be changed once posted, but that she could still list our next meeting date. As such, Rhoads will inform Ms. Meczywor of our next meeting date once chosen & she will add the agenda once finalized. Thus, the calendar will show our next meeting in a timely fashion.
- Board of Selectman appearance: Rhoads reported that he had been invited to the BOS meeting that night to "begin our public dialogue." He asked for suggestions on topics. Shepley asked whether this was "reporting" & with what frequency. To the 1st question, Rhoads emphasized that this is a dialogue, with the advantage that BOH issues would be broadcast on cable TV during the BOS meeting. Moreover, the BOS & BOH each have independent & overlapping authorities, so that more open communication would help to coordinate our efforts on issues of mutual interest. To the 2nd question, Mr. Green proffered quarterly. Rhoads then indicated that he planned to say 3 things: (i) Promote our "clean up the community" recommendation, highlighting the Ashuwillticook dog feces issue; (ii) Note our interest in collaborating on regulating short-term rentals, a process currently on hold awaiting release of state code; & (iii) Severing the West Rd. pump station from the Adams Fire District (AFD) water system.
- West Road pump station: Rhoads had previously informed the board by email that the AFD would be required by the Department of Environmental Protection to sever the link between the West Rd. pump station (town property) & the AFD water supply. Further, he attended a Prudential Committee meeting on March 25th during which Water Superintendent Barrett suggested that he would supply the labor & ask the town to pay for the parts (pipe caps, etc.). Rhoads told the Prudential Committee that this was a reasonable solution, which he would explore further. At the BOH meeting, Rhoads reported that the water line was separated earlier that day (he witnessed part of the process) & that Superintendent Barrett would let us know the cost of the parts (est. \$400-500). Meanwhile, Rhoads indicated that he was currently determining whether we had the funds & authority to appropriate them for this purpose. Specifically, we could justify the expenditure as "Enforcement," given that it's enforcing a DEP mandate.

LOCAL & COUNTY UPDATES:

- BRPC-sponsored seminar on short-term rentals (Lee 3/7, Rhoads): The seminar was very informative. Guidance was helpful, but it will be difficult to proceed until the state code is released.
- Berkshire Co BOH Assoc. (Shepley, Rhoads, 3/20): This was a split meeting, with administrative part followed by a presentation on emerging infectious diseases (EIDs). The 2 major pieces of interest are: (i) Shepley gave high marks to the EID presentation. He said that a wealth of important information was provided (we were provided printouts of the PowerPoint presentation); (ii) BOHA is planning to sponsor a workshop on food-borne illnesses in early May because last year saw an uptick in food-borne illnesses.

The implication of multiple pathogens with none standing out in epidemic proportions leads to the likely conclusion that food-handling in general may have contributed. BOHA will send out an announcement that targets temporary food vendors (largely food trucks). Romaniak agreed to contact the usual Adams vendors personally to apprise them of this educational opportunity.

- Berkshire Public Health Alliance (Rhoads, 3/21): The Alliance is in the process of recommending a county-wide fee structure for public health services, developing marketing materials (still) & finalizing a template for BOH Standard Operating Procedures (close?). Particularly interesting, Jeff Kennedy (Williamstown Health Inspector) has been working to establish a "Local Fines Bylaw" with more teeth than our usual citation. Rhoads will seek more information as this looks worthwhile. Next meeting: 6/13.
- Health Equity Network, "Community Health Rankings," BRPC, Pittsfield (3/25, Rhoads): Rhoads reported that this was a very illuminating survey, revealing that Berkshire County had dropped one spot to 13th/14 counties in MA but that MA is above average in health status compared with the rest of the country. Rhoads highlighted 2 issues: (i) our traffic fatality rate is higher than the rest of the state; & (ii) our Medicare flu vaccination rate is only 50% (similar across the Commonwealth). The recent documentation of a 4th pediatric flu death in MA places this latter statistic in an area of concern for us. Shepley said that he would put the measles vaccination rate on his radar.
- BCBOHA Semiannual Dinner (3/28, Kevin Cranston): Hoyt & Shepley reported that Cranston (MDiv, Director, DPH Bureau of Infectious Diseases) presented a compelling case for the synergism between opioid use & HIV in the Lawrence-Lowell constellation of cases. The mousse was also superb.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: No additional items were offered.

- TA Cesan's suggestion that the BOH provide in-person updates to the BOS: See above.

UPCOMING EVENTS: (Check with Dave Rhoads if you need more information.)

- 4/24: BCBOHA (Shepley, Rhoads)
- 5/29: Infectious Diseases Workshop, Del Valle Institute (Rhoads, others?)
- 6/13: BPHA quarterly meeting (Rhoads)
- 9/6: UMass Health Policy "Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Small & Rural Communities in W. MA"

REVIEW MAIL: The following mail was noted in the Agenda.

- DEP confirmation on West Rd. pump station ownership / responsibility: See above.

TASKS: These are what I remember.

- Rhoads: Finish BOH Emergency Responsibilities Summary, arrange meeting with EMD Kleiner
- Hoyt/Shepley: Choose 2-3 unfinished items from Detailed Emergency Responsibilities (coordinate)
- Rhoads: Ask Haley to upload documents to new "Waste Hauler Resources" tab on website
- Hoyt: Ask Haley to upload documents to new "Vaping Resources" tab on website
- All: Explore ways to "Curb the Canine Crapping Calamity" (Rhoads will initiate suggestions list)

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for May 8, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was passed unanimously at 5:28 PM.

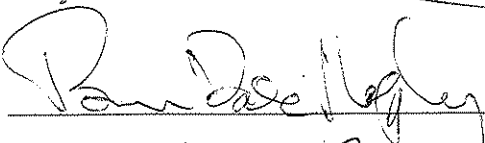
Respectfully Submitted,

Date

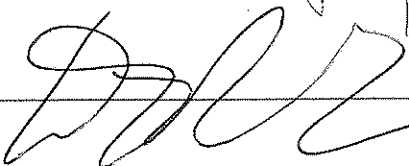
05/08/2019



Peter Hoyt, PhD



Bruce Shepley, RN



David Rhoads, PhD