

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
MAY 8, 2019**

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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)

TOWN CLERK  
ADAMS PASS  
CLERK

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Pam Gerry (Administrative Assistant)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jack Guerino, (iBerkshires); William Martischnig; Haley Meczywor (Clerk); James Bush (Selectman); Karen Rose; Catherine Foster; Beverly Favreau; Gary Singer

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Rhoads asked for a motion to add this item to the agenda, which passed unanimously. Rhoads next asked for a motion to nominate Shepley as Chair; the motion passed unanimously. Finally, Rhoads asked for a motion to nominate Hoyt as Vice-Chair; this motion also passed unanimously. Rhoads turned the meeting over to Shepley, who confirmed that he will build the next agenda. We all agreed to make sure to include this item in next year's May agenda. Shepley then turned to the Public Comment item.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Several members of the community reappeared to follow up on how we have addressed their concerns regarding the accumulation of dog feces on the Ashuwillticook. Salient points included:

- Rhoads reported, referencing an earlier unrelated meeting, that Town Administrator Jay Green has initiated a few remedies. To wit, (i) more & better bag dispensers; (ii) disposal receptacles designed to limit disposal to poop bags, but not household trash; (iii) more & better signage; (iv) increased surveillance from the Animal Control Office, whose position will be upgraded in FY20; (v) possible introduction of police bicycle patrols to facilitate trail patrols.
- Signage: Rhoads suggested that we consider a sign design contest for the town's high-school students (Hoosac Valley, McCann, BART), from which multiple designs could be chosen. In addition to involving the youth, the variety would counter our usual tendency to ignore familiar signs. Community groups, e.g. Adams Arts Advisory Board, could be enlisted for planning & judging. Rhoads said that he had drafted a public service announcement to be posted on Cable TV (Channel 1301) & asked whether Shepley or Hoyt would provide him with a "dog picture" to complete the PSA with a royalty-free image.
- Shepley observed that the problem has somewhat abated for 2 reasons: (i) weather has washed away the winter accumulation; & (ii) people seem to be more responsible & cognizant of others. Moreover, noting that it's only been a month since our last meeting, progress has been made. He thanked attendees for their efforts, support & continued attention to this important issue. In particular, Shepley will periodically post reminders on the town's Facebook page to keep the issue in view. It was further observed that the number of violators was probably small but that it doesn't take many dogs to leave a lot of poop over time.
- Community attendees appeared to be supportive of efforts taken so far. Both they & the board were eager for further developments. It was noted that a few fines might go a long way toward reducing the violations. We also thanked iBerkshires for highlighting the problem.
- Rhoads asked whether to invite PooPrints to present a proposal designed for Adams. The board appeared unenthusiastic & Ms. Rose opined that the lesser expensive solutions should be given a chance first.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the April 3 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

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

- 12 Crandall St.: Status (receivership possibility, deficiencies—water leak, mold, unsecured fan) — Romaniak recommended closure because the tenants have moved out. A receiver may be appointed to assume control but, accordingly, the issues are now longer under BOH purview.
- 64 Summer St.: Trash build up — Trash has been cleaned up.
- 20 Melrose St.: Unkempt vacant lot. Rhoads has pushed this complaint. The property was purchased 2 years ago on a tax sale. At that point, neighbors who had previously mowed the lawn, stopped because they didn't have permission. The property was never mowed in 2018. Romaniak contacted the owner, Matthew Lincoln, obtaining a promise on 5/6 to mow the lot. Rhoads reported that it was mowed by 5/7.
- Unpermitted tobacco sales at Adam's Hometown; highlights Joe Nowak's hospitality committee idea. —

- 4/24: Berkshire Co BOH Assoc. (Shepley, Rhoads): Tickborne illnesses, immunizations – We noted that tickborne illnesses are predicted to increase this year (VNA, news reports, local public health officials). Rhoads relayed that Nancy Slattery (Berkshire VNA) was alarmed that we had 57 flu cases in the first quarter of 2019. She encouraged us to promote flu vaccinations for the next season. Romaniak appealed to the board to publicize the evidence that immunizations are safe & actually save lives. Rhoads said that he was considering a PSA to promote vaccinations for the flu & measles. However, given Romaniak's specific request, Rhoads agreed to gather some resources to post on our webpage.
- 5/6: Temporary Food Vendor training – See "Short term rental" discussion, above.

#### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- BOH-BOS interaction (Rhoads at 4/3 BOS meeting) – Rhoads recounted his appearance (trash, dog poop, short term rentals, budget). TA Green suggested that the BOH Chair request a slot on the BOS agenda as needed, either quarterly or earlier if we have an important issue to discuss.
- Forest Park County Club (Rhoads) – Rhoads commended the Country Club & President Dick Pizani for cleaning up the accumulated trash along their bank on Bob's Hill (none of which likely from CC guests).
- ~~Community Health Forum with presentations, free stuff: Is this something to consider? – Not discussed.~~
- "Bug Season" PSA sent to Channel 1301. Rhoads has designed new PSAs for dog poop & vaping.

#### REVIEW MAIL: The following mail was received, discussed as needed.

- VNA quarterly disease reports (BOH mailbox): Please read & initial: Pam will then file; VNA actions.
- National Grid (4/22/19): Vegetation Control plans.
- Specialty Minerals quarterly inspection report: Shepley commended SMI for their openness & responsiveness to concerns raised.

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

- 5/15: Berkshire Co BOH Assoc. (Shepley, Rhoads)
- 5/19: Maple Grove Civic Club, PNA, 3 PM (Rhoads to speak) – Rhoads would like biographical info.
- 5/29: Operationalizing Emergency Planning Workshop, Del Valle Institute (Rhoads to attend)
- 9/6: UMass Health Policy "Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Small & Rural Communities in W. MA"

#### TASKS: These are what I remember.

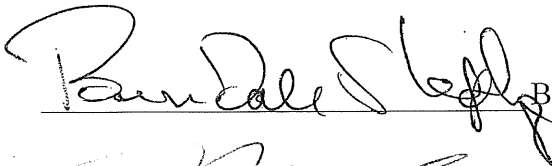
- Rhoads: Update BOH Emergency Responsibilities & Summary following meeting with EMD Kleiner
- Rhoads: Draft non-compliant client letter for waster haulers
- Rhoads: Compile information on immunization (safety, efficacy, consequences of disease outbreaks)
- Shepley: Contact MEMA regarding how to set up an EDS; Hoyt: Provide medical facilities list.
- Shepley/Rhoads: Review Hoyt's proffering for Vaping Resources
- Hoyt: Ask Haley to upload documents to new "Vaping Resources" tab on website
- All: Continue to explore ways to "Curb the Canine Crapping Calamity"

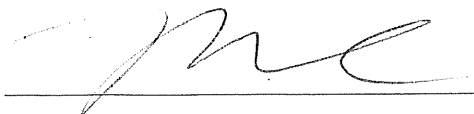
**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2019 at 4:00 PM.


**ADJOURN:** A motion to adjourn was passed unanimously at 4:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, D Rhoads

Date 12 June 2019

 Bruce Shepley, RN

 Peter Hoyt, PhD

 David Rhoads, PhD