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**ADAMS BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020  
4:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman David Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Peter Hoyt and Member Laura Grandchamp

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Code Enforcer, Mark Blaisdell; Steven Thompson, Sharon Burke and Mark White, Specialty Minerals; Ziad Kary and Franchesca Varilla, Environmental Partners; iBerkshires Jack Guerino and Administrative Assistant Pam Gerry

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Rhoads called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Join Zoom meeting by video

URL: <https://zoom.us/j/93442072878?pwd=VEhwWGxlQjZlNTB4QURhbnlsWXMrUT09>

Meeting ID: 934 4207 2878

Passcode: 001417

Join Zoom meeting by phone, dial by your location

1-929-436-2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 934 4207 2878

Passcode: 001417

**Note:** If you are having trouble joining, please call David B. Rhoads, Ph.D., Chair, at 781-507-1627.

**NOTICES ON RECORDING & PANDEMIC WAIVER TO CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETING VIRTUALLY:**

Chairman Rhoads began the meeting by stating that according to Governor Baker's March 12 and March 15, 2020 order suspending Open Meeting Laws and proposing strict limitations of attendees that are allowed to gather in one place, the Board of Health meeting would be conducted remotely with their participants.

Chairman Rhoads stated that he would be moving the Specialty Minerals presentation to the beginning of the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Specialty minerals landfill expansion preview

Mark White addressed the board members reminding them that it was almost a year since they had appeared before the Board of Health. He stated that they wanted to let the members know that work had been ongoing over this period of time. Mr. White stated that they were prepared to submit their application to DEP for their site assignment process which would be followed by a review conducted by the Board of Health. He stated that their meeting was to provide information and assist the board members in updating them as to the expectations from the DEP office as well as the role of the Board of Health during this process.

Mr. White stated that they were present to provide additional information and updates to the quarry mineral management area of Specialty Minerals. He wanted them to know that the presentation was “purely informational.”

Mr. White took a moment to introduce the staff members; Steven Thompson, Sharon Burke, Specialty Minerals and Ziad Kary and Franchesca Virilla with Environmental Partners.

Mr. White began the PowerPoint presentation by explaining the various aspects in the overview of the Specialty Minerals quarry management, as well as the permitting processes and the boards involvement in regards to this.

Upon completion of the presentation, Chairman Rhoads asked members if they had any questions in regards to the review of the Specialty Minerals quarry project.

Member Grandchamp took a moment to ask a question regarding the possible removal of invasive species at the site which was addressed.

Chairman Rhoads was curious to know what the Board of Health members would be required to do in anticipation of the report from DEP regarding Specialty Minerals’ application.

In response, Mr. White stated that once the application was submitted to DEP, they would provide the board with a similar copy, as well as copies to the Board of Health Office in North Adams, MA and the Town Hall and library for public knowledge.

In closing, Chairman Rhoads thanked Mr. White and representatives for the information that they provided to the members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** October 14, 2020. Chairman Rhoads tabled the approval of the meeting minutes to November 19, 2020.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chairman Rhoads asked if there were any members of the audience who wished to make a public comment. There were none.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT:**

Chairman Rhoads addressed Code Enforcer Blaisdell to ask him if he had any information for the board members. He stated that he did not have any information for them at the current time.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- None

**REVIEW MAIL:**

- Berkshire VNA epidemiology report
- AFD Inorganic Contaminant report for 2020

Chairman Rhoads noted that reports contained no trace of contaminants of concern and the barium levels were very low.

- BOHA new meeting orientation, December 3, 5-8 pm (see email 11/3/20)

## **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- COVID-19 sit-rep

Chairman Rhoads asked members if they had any information to discuss. Members had no discussion at this time.

Chairman Rhoads began by stating that the number of COVID cases had risen in Berkshire County, as well as nationwide, adding that there was a need to control the virus as individuals were currently engaging in more indoor activities. Chairman Rhoads informed members that recently Pittsfield, MA had closed all restaurants to indoor dining. He stated that Adams did not want to restrict area restaurants any further but that they were very concerned with ensuring proper guidelines were being followed.

Chairman Rhoads expressed concern that positive COVID results were not always posted on the MAVEN sites in a timely manner and continued to note that the testing labs were becoming overwhelmed with increased cases being reported. He explained to them that if there was the option for the Town of Adams' public health nurse, Nancy Slattery to receive the positive COVID results more quickly, she would be able to perform contact tracing immediately. Chairman Rhoads told members that they need to develop a plan to establish a contact person for COVID information updates when the Board of Health Office is closed. He told them that he would offer his cell phone number for restaurant owners or the general public enabling them to contact him regarding positive results of COVID tests so they can be expedited to Ms. Slattery. He asked members and Code Enforcer Blaisdell if they would consider participating in this plan, as well.

Code Enforcer Blaisdell stated that he assumed the intention was for the restaurant or business owners to notify the Board of Health of these results and the members would then contact him. He noted that the board members were elected officials who should be available to the public by phone, noting that his cell phone was not a public number. Mr. Blaisdell stated that the members however are allowed to call him with any updates on positive cases when the office was closed.

Chairman Rhoads stated that when an individual received a positive test result during the hours that the Board of Health Office was closed, having members available could provide the chance for important information to be relayed to Mr. Blaisdell and Nancy Slattery.

In response, Mr. Blaisdell explained that establishments and schools are required to contact the Board of Health Office but this should not incorporate the town's public health nurse when it involved a positive test result from a different community. Chairman Rhoads stated that only Adams residents who were tested positive for COVID should be conveyed to Ms. Slattery.

Mr. Blaisdell asked for clarification with Ms. Slattery's protocol to follow for notification of a COVID case that did not involve an Adams resident in a local business or school. Chairman Rhoads stated that they would primarily be notifying Ms. Slattery with information regarding COVID cases in Adams. Chairman Rhoads stated that he would be offering his cell phone number to the Board of Selectmen's Chair, Christine Hoyt to add his cell phone number to the restaurant checklist which offered information on how to handle these situations. Chairman Rhoads addressed Vice-Chairman Hoyt and Member Grandchamp asking them if they would be interested in offering their cell phone numbers, as well.

Member Grandchamp stated that she would not be able to offer her private cell phone number for public use and further noted that it was used for her veterinary business.

- Flu clinic November 4<sup>th</sup> (Nancy Slattery at Senior Center)
- Adams Halloween experience

**SCHEDULE DECEMBER MEETING:** Code Enforcer Blaisdell requested that they discuss the scheduling of their next meeting on November 19, 2020. Chairman Rhoads agreed.

**ADJOURN:** A motion made by Member Grandchamp, seconded by Vice-Chairman Hoyt to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 P.M., passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Pam Derry

12-10-20

Date