



Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220

Board of Health Department

TOWN HALL
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Approved

Adams Board of Health – Public Meeting Minutes

1st Floor Mahogany Room and Zoom

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

BOH Members Present: Chairman Dr. David Rhoads, Vice-Chair Joyce Brewer, Member Dr. Peter Hoyt

Others Present: Mark Blaisdell-Code Enforcer, Michelle DeRose-BOH Administrative Assistant, Atty Edmund St. John-Town Council, John Barrett-Water Dept Superintendent (virtual), John Cowie, Jack Guerino-iBerkshires

In person or virtual participation in this meeting is allowed by Ch.20 of the Acts of 2021 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c.30 §20. The Zoom information is given below. This meeting will be recorded via Zoom; a copy can be provided upon request.

Call to Order: Chairman Rhoads called the meeting to order at 4pm

Notices on Recording & Post-Pandemic Waiver to Conduct Public Meeting Virtually (Above)

- Note: if you are having trouble joining, please call David B Rhoads, PH.D. BOH Chair, at 781-507-1627.

Direct link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89271050666?pwd=aWQ5SXJOWHBkOTN5VUFsNnNzM1RTdz09>

or go to "zoom.us/join" or call 1-929-436-2866 (New York) and enter meeting information

Meeting ID: 892 7105 0666

Passcode: **669159**

Dr. Rhoads asked to move the Water Departments Superintendent's report to the top of the agenda items since Mr. Barrett was attending the meeting. Dr. Hoyt motioned, Ms. Brewer seconded. All voted Yes unanimously.

- **Water Department Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Rhoads summarized that the reports that Mr. Barrett provided. The 2021 water system improvements include the original water main replacements, hydrant replacements, upgrade of Glen Street Pump station and rehab of Well #3. Well #3 and #4 are the main 2 wells used throughout the year. Well #3 is very old and there is not a backup generator. In order to safely repair Well#4, Well#3 must be relied on. The 2 year plan starting next year to replace the pump and install a generator.

The lead and copper report shows that we are below the threshold or zero and indicated that any lead and copper would be from households and not from the main lines.

The chlorine report is done quarterly and shows nothing detectable.

Mr. Barrett added that on the Federal level, the lead and copper rule will be revised. Public notices will be issued for those that have lead service lines. Adams does not have any lead lines. Individual households located in Adams, may have lead lines or joints. Higher levels may indicate improper sampling by the home owner. If there is any hot water in the sample, it registers improperly in the sample.

Mr. Barrett said that there is little chlorine added since we are a ground water supply. We are closer to the minimum level than the maximum level.

Mr. Barrett extended that they are try to replace before it breaks. There are 3 wells that the town uses. Well#3 is the largest capacity and would like to see this upgraded and the funding can come through.

Dr. Rhoads said that he had heard that there was a wooden pipe found while working on the road renovation. Mr. Barrett confirmed. They were not the Fire District pipes. The wooden main line was used for water that served the mills where the Susan B Anthony statue/McDonald's and the housing complex are currently located. There were water wheels in those mills and transferred from the housing complex mill down to the McDonald's mill. Mr. Barrett asked that Maximillian pull the wooden line out. The Historic Society has this now and will be displayed if they have room at some point.

Public Comment:

None

Public Hearing:

None

Approval of Minutes:

- **September 9, 2021:** Dr. Hoyt stated he did not attend and is not Vice Chair. Dr. Rhoads had not had a chance to review and would like to postpone approval till the next meeting.
- **September 15, 2021:** Mrs. DeRose has not completed and will be approved at a later date.

Code Enforcement Officer: none at this time

Old Business:

- **103 Friend Street – Nuisance & Housing Code Correction Order; Notice of Intention to Condemn (hold)**
Dr. Rhoads stated that is subject is holding until the next meeting.
- **8 Valley Street – Order to Demolish**
Mr. Blaisdell apologized to the Board and Atty. St. John as the first draft submitted Order to Demolish contained some omissions and had made some edits and resubmitted to the Board and Atty St. John. He has visited the property with Mr. Ciuk's permission last week. Photos were shared with the Board showing the unsafe conditions. He also had a conversation with Scott Koczela (former Code Enforcer) and he described the condition the of property as well. Mr. Blaisdell provided alternatives to Mr. Ciuk of dispensing of the property. Mr. Ciuk had no objections to demolition. Mr. Blaisdell had heard from an abutting neighbor that Mr. Ciuk has posted the property for sale by owner showing his cell phone number. Based on Mr. Koczela's 2011 Condemnation Order and Mr. Blaisdell's refreshed Condemnation Order, it was asked to have the Order of Demolition approved by the Board.

Atty St. John added that Chapter 111, Section 27B requires that the dwelling must be determined is unfit for human habitation. There should be motion noted on that alone. Atty St. John also noted that the order indicates an immediate demolition. Typically you are given a 90 day window to act on the order. The word "immediate" gives the impression that there is a sense of urgency. He would like to see a motion noted about this as well.

Dr. Rhoads requested a motion to declare 8 Valley St unfit for human habitation. Dr. Hoyt seconded. Voted Yes unanimously.

Dr. Rhoads motioned for 8 Valley St to be declare the property an immediate danger to the health and safety of the neighborhood. Ms. Brewer seconded. Dr. Hoyt questioned the financial implications to the Town. Mr. Blaisdell stated that this is not an order for the Town to demolish, its an order to the responsible parties to do so within 90 days. If they do not, the Municipality may pursue the demolition. If the homeowner did not grant consent, then the matter would be taken to court and if the Municipality took on that expense after securing funds to do so and could place a lien on the property. It could take longer than the initial 90 days to complete that process. There are options that the Town can take as well. Voted Yes unanimously.

Dr. Rhoads motioned for 8 Valley St Order to Demolish be approved. Dr. Hoyt seconded. Voted Yes unanimously. The Order can be issued.

- **Original Seed Cigar & Lounge booth at Ramblefest & other town events (special permit class)**

The Sheerins were not present for this meeting. Dr. Rhoads, Atty St. John, Mr. Blaisdell, among others, did much research on this subject and came to the conclusion that the phrase noted in our Tobacco sales regulations from State regulations indicate as of or after December 11, 2019, the establishment must be operating with a permanent, non-mobile location and could not be altered. Dr. Rhoads will notify the Sheerins of the outcome of their investigation to their inquiry.

- **To consider issuing a "COVID-19 Public Heath Directive Regarding the Wearing of Masks, Other Face Coverings, and Related Safety Standards"**

Dr. Rhoads shared the current data provided as 10 days ago. There is and will always be an approximate 10 day delay in reporting. There was a slight decrease in numbers from the prior 2 weeks. There are signage options that businesses can display at their establishments and would be available on our website. Dr. Hoyt shared that he rewrote the advisory and noted that the Town website did not offer Covid information. This information with links to other websites related to Covid, as well as the advisory, will be posted on the website and going forward will be maintained with the most up to date Covid reports available related to Adams and the County. Mr. Cowie had concerns about the data is that the total number of cases is shown and not the data showing how many recovered, who died, who contracted the virus, meaning, were they individuals in nursing homes, etc. The data does not show number of deaths specific to Adams. Dr. Hoyt agreed that The Town should have had Covid information on the website and whatever data we have been provided, can be posted on the site. Mr. Blaisdell said there is not one entity that provides this data and was compiled from different sources and is not synchronized.

Dr. Rhoads motioned to approve Dr. Hoyt's revised Covid notice, signage, and informational links and updated local data to be placed on the website. Dr. Hoyt seconded. Voted Yes unanimously. Dr. Hoyt will work with Haley Meczywor to get this information on the website. Dr. Rhoads will check with surrounding towns to see what they are doing to provide information on their respective websites. Dr. Hoyt also noted that the Board of Health emails shown on the website were not linked to email. He will see about that being corrected.

- **172 Howland Avenue – Standard Housing Code Correction Order**

Mr. Blaisdell said that all the corrections have been made to this property. This case is closed.

- **76-B Howland Avenue – Condemnation Order**

Mr. Blaisdell stated that the conditions at this property remain the same and is not aware if the owners have petitioned the housing, district or superior courts. This case is stagnant at this time. Dr. Rhoads will keep on the agenda until he hears

- **25-C Pleasant Street –Housing Code Correction Order; landlord creating a condition imminently affecting/impacting occupants' health and safety**

Mr. Blaisdell stated that the conditions at this property remain the same and is not aware if the owners have petitioned the housing, district or superior courts. This case is stagnant at this time. Dr. Rhoads will keep on the agenda until he hears

- **Community Health Programs mobile vaccination van at SBA Festival (Ramblefest?)**

Dr. Rhoads informed us that 8 people were vaccinated at the Susan B Anthony festival on August 21st and many of them were school children brought by their parent(s). Staffing will be difficult to be at Ramblefest due to being a holiday weekend, therefore, the van will not be available. Dr. Rhoads stresses that vaccination is high on the list to combat this virus and you don't need to wait for the mobile van to come. You can contact our local pharmacies, Walgreen or CVS to set up your appointment

- **Municipal Grant Opportunity for Air Quality Sensors: status**

Dr. Rhoads said that we were unable to meet the deadline to apply for this grant.

New Business:

- **Cannabis Tab for our web page; regulations now in Spanish [email 8/16]**

Dr. Rhoads stated to postpone this to another meeting. Dr. Hoyt agreed since we are currently trying to put the Covid information on the site

- **Water Department Superintendent's Report**

This was moved to the beginning of the agenda. See above notes.

- **Designation of Mark Blaisdell as our health agent for Code Enforcement**

Dr. Rhoads said that he was asked by Town Administrator, Jay Green and Town Council, Atty St. John to postpone this subject pending further discussion among them including Board of Selectman

Local & County Updates:

- **9/9: Berkshire Public Health Alliance**

The Alliance will be 10 years old and going strong especially now with the additional funding from the State. A meeting will be happening soon.

- **9/10: Community Health Initiative (CHI) Improvement Plan (CHIP); 9-11 am [email 8/17]**

Ms. Brewer attended the Berkshire Health Systems. There are a lot of concerns across the county. She has copious notes but did not bring them with her to the meeting.

- **9/28: BCBOHA new member orientation (open to any BOH member)**

Ms. Brewer has been fully oriented.

Upcoming Events:

- **Any?**

Dr. Hoyt shared a lecture on vaping; speaker, Jamie Ducharme at MCLA will speak about the book she wrote "Big Vape: The incendiary Rise of the Juul". This is in person or virtual and invites anyone that may be interested in attending.

Dr. Rhoads received an email "Support Local Health Funding". Just need to enter your name that you support it.

Review Mail:

Mr. Blaisdell received an email in regards to a children's Halloween Party being held at the Elks. It could be held outside or inside should they choose. Dr. Rhoads said that House to house trick or treating should be okay. We can meet again before Halloween incase anything changes.

For the Good of the Order:

Dr. Hoyt thanked Mr. Blaisdell for sending an email regarding Booster information. Mr. Blaisdell said there was a line at Walgreen's. As of Monday, there was a list of facilities that would have appointment availability to get the Booster shot. As of this morning (Wednesday), that list diminished. On Monday, Adams Walgreen's was listed having available appointments, but on Wednesday, no Adams facility was listed.

Schedule Next Meetings: October 20, 2021 4pm

Adjournment:

Dr. Rhoads asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Hoyt so moved, Ms. Brewer seconded. Dr. Rhoads thanks everyone for coming and appreciated the comments. Voted Yes unanimously. Adjourned at 5:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle DeRose

12/2/2021

Date