



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, October 20, 2021

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

Others Present: Mark Blaisdell-Code Enforcer, Michelle DeRose-BOH Administrative Assistant, Atty Ed St. John- Town Council, Kevin Downing –neighbor of 80 Friend Street , Jack Guerino-iBerkshires (virtual)

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 4:02pm

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/83988675737?pwd=QWRqNjd4ZzJqVjRZS1A4T0dwdHNxZz09>

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

Meeting ID: 839 8867 5737

Passcode: **205334**

Public Comment:

None

Public Hearing:

None

Approval of Minutes:

- September 9, 2021:** Ms. Brewer motioned to approve September 9 minutes with edits provided by Dr. Hoyt and Dr. Rhoads; Dr. Hoyt seconded. Ms. Brewer and Dr. Rhoads voted Yes, Dr. Hoyt abstained as he was not present
- September 15, 2021:** Dr. Hoyt motioned to approve September 15 minutes with one edit provided by Dr. Rhoads; Ms. Brewer seconded. All voted Yes unanimously
- September 29, 2021:** Mrs. DeRose has not completed and will be approved at a later date.

Old Business:

- 103 Friend Street – Nuisance & Housing Code Correction Order; Notice of Intention to Condemn (hold)**
Mr. Daunais not present. Dr. Rhoads shared Mr. Blaisdell’s status of the property. He had spoken with Mr. Daunais. A new tree service possibly to start work week of 10/2 and has new porch flooring to be installed soon. Dr. Rhoads said that we will leave this until next month.

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

Dr. Rhoads shared Mr. Blaisdell's update that Mr. Blaisdell spoke with the occupant and nothing has changed and only the kitchen heater works. Advised her to contact Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority as well as Community Legal Aid. Dr. Rhoads said this will remain open on the agenda for now.

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

Dr. Rhoads shared Mr. Blaisdell's update that Mr. Blaisdell spoke with the occupant on 9/28 and nothing had changed. He left a voice-mail on 10/19 inquiring about the status. Dr. Rhoads said this will remain open on the agenda for now.

New Business:

- **80 Friend St. – Declaration according to Ch.111, Sec 127B**

Dr. Hoyt motioned to amend the agenda until the neighbor, Kevin Downing, could join us at approximately 4:30pm. Ms. Brewer seconded Voted Yes unanimously.

Mr. Downing joined the meeting. Mr. Blaisdell stated that this matter has been open since 2011 and code enforcement dates back to 2006. Mr. Downing is the abutting neighbor. The photos shared show that the house is a rowhouse and are considered condominiums. The file on this property, an order to condemn was not found, just a placard. The property has deteriorated further since 2011. There are no steps to get into the property, therefore cannot assess the interior. There is vermin seen at the location as well. Mr. Downing said that his wife and he moved into 78 Friend St about 2 months ago. He has seen raccoons going into the dwelling and heard them on 1st and 2nd floor and knows they can create further damage.

Mr. Blaisdell summarized the damages featured in the photographs. The front is missing steps to the front door – unsafe egress. On the back side, open and broken windows, no stairs to the back porch, back porch is in substandard condition including an open roof. Mr. Blaisdell checked with the electric company and water district and there is no service to that property. He did not check with the gas company and said any eating appliance used, would not work without electricity. Once approved and signed, he will get the declaration letters to the responsible parties. The owner has passed away and there are 4 potential heirs. Mr. Blaisdell will follow up with a condemnation order.

Dr. Hoyt motioned to approve the declaration as written along with the condemnation order. Ms. Brewer seconded. All voted Yes unanimously.

Mr. Blaisdell said that the letters will be mailed via regular and certified mail. If there are any parties outside of the US, or addresses are unknown, then we are required to publish. We will focus on the mailings at this time.

Mr. Downing said he will wait on any further questions until the letters are sent. His main question is what happens to the house (property) once this is done. Dr. Rhoads we will meet in November to see what the status is at that point.

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

Dr. Rhoads said that our website currently has sections on tobacco and vaping. It was agreed that Cannabis should have its own section and separate from tobacco and vaping so Ms. Brewer can have a voice in the subject. Ms. Brewer felt that the information should be educational and proactive so people can obtain the information. Dr. Rhoads understands that there is a possible community impact fee and there is 1 enterprise that has signed a host community agreement and if we could review it and see what the board of health role is in that. He also said that this owner is eager to be involved with the education. Ms. Brewer said there is an obligation to do community youth education involved with other businesses she has interacted with. Dr. Rhoads will put together a few documents for the next meeting.

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

Dr. Rhoads said this was brought up in August when the Board of Health's budget was frozen due to excessive postage being used. Dr. Rhoads was reviewing statutes and inquired as to who has control of the Board of Health budget and who has authority. The Board of Health has statutory responsibilities and issuing those orders. The Board relies on Mr. Blaisdell to perform those duties. He questioned where Mr. Blaisdell came from and realized that the Board was not involved in the search for health agent or screening applicants or reviewing candidates. Dr. Hoyt stated that he was involved (as the Chair) at that time, and interviewed Mr. Blaisdell and the Board of Selectman were aware. Dr. Rhoads said that Dr. Hoyt had not informed the Board of Health of this which at the time, was just Dr. Rhoads, therefore, the Board did not have any input or was not able to contribute to writing the job description. Dr. Rhoads feels it important to close that loop and the Board as a whole to recognize Mr. Blaisdell as Health Agent. There will be a meeting with the Town Administrator and Town Council between now and the next meeting and will bring this up for discussion and possibly a vote. No further discussion at this time.

Dr. Rhoads did not put the AFD grant information not on agenda, will add to next meeting.

Local & County Updates:

- **10/20: Berkshire Co BOH Association, Executive Committee**

Dr. Rhoads shared that the Health Association had an Executive Committee meeting today. They had talked about their annual Fall dinner that is usually in November. People are nervous getting together and sick of Zoom. The bylaw states that elections must be carried out and a survey will be distributed to see how you want to meet and when, possibly in January. Be on the lookout for the email.

There are funds available from either the State or Federal for creating an after action plan and discussed Covid response of what worked and what didn't.

We received American Recovery Plan dollars and will check further into this and would like to see if we can provide input in how it is spent.

Upcoming Events:

- **11/18: Berkshire Public Health Alliance Governing Board**

Dr. Rhoads shared there is a meeting next month and will be the 10th anniversary. They were hoping to meet in person with a cake and unsure if it can happen at this time.

Review Mail:

- **Recycling Works MA: Webinar – November 10**

Dr. Rhoads said he shared the email with a link to the webinar in the Board of Health info packet that was sent for this Board of Health meeting. Mr. Blaisdell said they will be discussing the textile ban. This was one of the reasons a textile bin was placed up at the Adams Transfer Station a few months back.

For the Good of the Order:

Dr. Rhoads spoke of Halloween; He said to avoid large indoor parties and house to house trick or treating should be fine. Mr. Blaisdell mentioned that the Elks was considering an outside event, but has not heard anymore information about it.

Dr. Rhoads spoke of the Covid updates were provided in the BOH info packet and will be posted on the website and keep previous reports so people can see the trend. Berkshire County is still running approx. 25 cases per day. He contacted Erica Girgenti at the Visitor's Center and confirmed there was a vaccine van at Hometown Supermarket today from 11-1pm and there will be a flu clinic next week on Tuesday. The Council on Aging's website shows more details. The vaccination van will be at the Visitor's Center in November, date and time to be determined. A couple

weeks ago, the van was there from 9-12 and people were lined up throughout that time and the van ran out of the Pfizer vaccine.

Schedule Next Meetings: November 17 at 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 4:46pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle DeRose

12/2/2021

Date