



Town of Adams ■ ***Massachusetts 01220***

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Approved

Adams Board of Health – Public Meeting Minutes **1st Floor Mahogany Room (in-person only)** **Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

BOH Members Present: Chairman Dr. David Rhoads, Member Jess Wilson

BOH Members Not Present: Vice-Chair Dr. Amy Oberlin

Others Present: Michelle DeRose-Administrative Assistant, Attorney Edmund St. John-Town Counsel

Call to Order: Ms. Wilson called the meeting to order at 4:03pm and requested that Dr. Rhoads continue as chair. Dr. Rhoads mentioned that it is being recorded.

Board Reorganization: Dr. Rhoads postponed due to the absence of Dr. Oberlin as he would like to have a conversation about this with all members present.

Public Comment: none

Approval of Minutes: April 5: Dr. Rhoads requested to postpone the approval until Dr. Oberlin is present in case she has suggested edits.

Public Hearing: None

Code Enforcement Officer:

- **Report on enforcement & on training:**

Dr. Rhoads would like to catch up with Sarah Lesure on a number of issues with one of them being the Property Registration process. He also noticed that there were Well Regulations were passed in the year 2000. There have been changes with MassDEP, DPH and the PFAS. He wants to inquire on how many wells are here and if any have been decommissioned. There is a 15-page regulation and wants to review them. He plans to invite Jim Wilusz and Jeff Kennedy to be included in this review. He will contact Mrs. Lesure directly. He said that Dr. Oberlin is not planned to go to the MHA in house training as she was worried about the funds and felt the funds would be better used for Mrs. Lesure training opportunities. He plans to convey to Dr. Oberlin and Mrs. Lesure that there are scholarship funds available from the Berkshire Health Alliance for attending meetings and DPH offers support for health inspector training. He needs to discuss further with Gerald Garner and Sarah Lesure.

Old Business:

- **Consideration of strategies to facilitate recycling at apartment buildings (continued):**

Dr. Rhoads is still investigating and will report next time.

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- **Program update & grant expectations: *Up & Adams Wellness Initiative 2023*** Dr. Rhoads said Mr. Rosenberg is not present at the meeting so there is no update at this time. Dr. Rhoads did sign up for the foraging program.
- **Solid Waste Advisory Committee; reconstitution: Status:**
Dr. Rhoads is awaiting information from Jay Green, Town Administrator. This subject is still pending.
- **“No Smoking” signs on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail: status & suggestions**
Dr. Rhoads said DCR could not enforce this if the signs are placed. Is there a need? Can it be quantified as to how much cigarette butts or people smoking? Ms. Wilson commented that there are more dog feces than that of seeing individuals smoking. She may have seen occasionally people smoking near by the trail openings but not necessarily on the trail. Dr. Rhoads had seen vaping and smelled Cannabis.
- **BOH web page: Status? Any changes in permitted hauler list? Note addition of “Substance Abuse”**
Dr. Rhoads added the website for the Berkshire Health Systems Harm reduction van information and the Berkshire County Substance Use Resource Guide. Dr. Rhoads will walk around town to see local businesses will place the informational posters in their establishments. Ms. Wilson volunteered that she will place in her window of her business.

Dr. Rhoads mentioned that there was a link on the page to the Quarry Specialty Minerals providing information when Specialty Minerals had applied to fill their quarry with new mined debris creating their own landfill. This has since been removed since the town Board of Health and the state approved this.

New Business:

- **Reallocation of unspent BPHA grant funds by *Up & Adams* for BOH “giveaways”**
Dr. Rhoads said that presumably there is \$295 left from the grant. He is requesting the Board to approve that these funds can be reallocated so a purchase can be made for sunglasses and tick removers. Purchases can be made directly with a credit card. Dr. Rhoads inquired about being charged tax. Mrs. DeRose answered, if charged tax, that portion would not be reimbursed. Mrs. DeRose mentioned that the Accounting office does have a credit card that may be set up as tax exempt and the purchase may be able to be made through them. Dr. Rhoads and Ms. Wilson discussed which tick removers may be purchased. The keychain option are more expensive but may be more convenient to have it on you at all times. There was talk about making suggestions to keep one in your car. Ms. Wilson motioned to reallocate remaining funds from Berkshire Public Health Alliance grant application to purchase of sunglasses & tick removers. Dr. Rhoads seconded. Both voted Yes unanimously. Dr. Rhoads will submit the request to Berkshire Public Health Alliance.
- **Herbicide spraying by Pan Am sub-contractor (plan from vendor pending)**
Dr. Rhoads said that this started last year when someone’s dog that likes to eat anything along the path ended up eating some sprayed weeds along the fence of Ashuwillticook trail and got very sick requiring urgent vet care. They had reached out to Dr. Rhoads to investigate what may have happened. He contacted Massachusetts Dept of Agricultural Resources (DAR). There should be notifications sent to inform of any spraying particularly around water ways. In his investigation, he did not find any official that had received these notifications. There was a

recent notification for this year's spraying from PanAm's consultant. The information received should have information on the contents of the herbicide as well as the location. Typically, the notice is provided 3 weeks in advance. The Community Development Dept should also be informed of this.

Dr. Rhoads stated that he learned that dogs are very sensitive to cannabis and if ingested can result in very similar symptoms of that of the herbicide.

Dr. Rhoads will follow up with communication with town officials upon notification going forward.

- **Training status: Volunteer to keep our certificates?**

Dr. Rhoads requested to defer this subject to next month when all members are present. He did mention that it is important to keep up with training.

Local & County Updates:

- **DPH Capacity Assessment: Update (follow-up from our submission)**

Dr. Rhoads does not have any further information. Laura Kittross contacted Dr. Rhoads to get further details on the information we provided some time ago. He believes she is still in the process of going through it all.

- **Racial Equity 101 Training: April sessions passed; no further sessions announced**

Dr. Rhoads is hoping this training will come back in the future.

- **Other?**

Upcoming Events:

- **6/3: MHAB Certificate Program**

Dr. Rhoads will follow up with Dr. Oberlin to line up.

- **6/17-6/18: Adams Faerie Fest – Anyone up for a BOH booth?**

Dr. Rhoads stated it was decided to not to have a booth at this event.

- **6/24: Adams Street Fair, Saturday Noon-6 pm**

Dr. Rhoads said the spray tent has been booked for the event. He will follow up with the Fair organizers and how this will get set up.

Review Mail:

- **BCBOHA calendar for May**

- **Other**

Dr. Rhoads mentioned that there was a press release regarding the Textile Recycling bins locations. He also mentioned that Second Chance Composting received \$50,000 grant money as well as Tommy's Composting in Dalton received \$55,000 in which they will be purchasing trucks for their businesses. Ms. Wilson suggested educational materials listing items that could be composted. Dr. Rhoads said we cannot promote specific businesses but could have a list of the local businesses available. Ms. Wilson suggested QR codes could be made available for some of these educational topics for easy access to the information.

For the Good of the Order:

- **Air quality sensors at Drury**

Dr. Rhoads said that over a year ago, he believed it was the Dept of Environmental Protection had a program that would provide air sensors around town at no cost to us. The previous code enforcement officer solicited local building owners for sites to place these sensors on. The

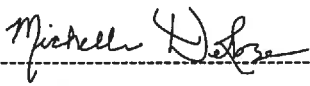
sensors would collect data by telemetry. Unfortunately, the grant deadline passed before town officials could complete the process. There could be another opportunity coming soon. He mentioned that Drury High School (North Adams) received a grant for the air sensor.

- Ms. Wilson mentioned that for Up and Adams and part of the goal was to create a sense of community. She recently listened to a report regarding loneliness being as detrimental as any other health issue such as smoking. She suggests being proactive before the winter months are upon us again. There are outlets for student ages and 65+ ages such as school and council on aging events. She suggested to have some conversation related to the individuals in between those age groups of what community opportunities for them. Her idea is how we can connect the community to the different opportunities available to them. Perhaps there are volunteer opportunities available. Mr. St. John mentioned that there are volunteer opportunities through the Council on Aging for that age group.

Schedule Next Meeting: June 7 & July 5/12? [Possibility of spreading 2 meetings over the rest of the summer]

June 7 and July 12 were decided upon

Adjournment: Ms. Wilson motioned to adjourn. Dr. Rhoads seconded. All members voted Yes unanimously. Adjourned at 4:59pm.



Michelle DeRose
Administrative Assistant

6/8/2023

Date