



TOWN HALL  
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**Approved**

## **Adams Board of Health – Public Meeting Minutes**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Mahogany Room (in-person only)**

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023**

**BOH Members Present:** Chairman Dr. David Rhoads, Co-Chair Dr. Amy Oberlin, Member Jess Wilson

**BOH Members Not Present:**

**Others Present:** Michelle DeRose-Administrative Assistant, Sarah Lesure – Code Enforcement Officer, Attorney Edmund St. John-Town Counsel, Howard Rosenberg – Select Board Member, Erin Lenski - Up and Adams Program Manager

**Call to Order:** Dr. Rhoads called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. Dr. Rhoads mentioned that it is being recorded.

### **Board Reorganization:**

Dr. Rhoads has been Chair for some time and typically it is rotated and asked if any of the members would like to step up as Chair. Mrs. Oberlin cannot add to her workload at this time. Dr. Rhoads expressed that the other members' voices are being heard. Dr. Rhoads shared other Chair duties which include meetings that are typically performed during the day and may not work for their schedules. He is involved with the Heath Association and the Health Alliance. The other committee he was active on was the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and is trying to be revamped. He asked the members if one of them could be Vice-Chair. They would be working Linda Cernik (Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management). When he was active on this committee, the landfill was being closed for the solar field and the development of the bag tags so there were activities for the committee. Times of meetings and how often they would meet would need to be determined.

Dr. Rhoads explained should he not be present for a Board of Health meeting, that the Vice-Chair would run the meeting. Usually, at that point the agenda would have been already created.

Ms. Wilson said that she would be interested however concerned about overextending her workload. Dr. Oberlin mentioned depending on scheduling, between herself and Ms. Wilson, they could figure it out on how to be part of it. Dr. Rhoads he will let her know when something more happens with the Solid Waste Advisory Board.

It was decided that there will be no changes to the Board of Health seats. Dr. Rhoads will remain as Chair, Dr. Oberlin remains as Vice-Chair.

**Public Comment:** none

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23 OCT -5 AM 10:15  
TOWN CLERK  
ADAMS MASS.  
CLERK

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **April 5:** Dr. Oberlin motioned to approve minutes with edits. Ms. Wilson seconded; All voted Yes unanimously.
- **May 3:** Dr. Oberlin motioned to approve minutes with edits. Ms. Wilson seconded; All voted Yes unanimously.

**Public Hearing: None****Code Enforcement Officer:**

- **Report on enforcement & on training (NIMS/ICS?)**

Mrs. Lesure mentioned that the majority of the complaints coming in are tall grass and garbage. Fortunately, her orders have not warranted the need to go to the next steps. She has started her introduction to ICS training and has been instructed to complete the 100, 200 and 300 modules. Mrs. Lesure explained that the courses currently are online at your own pace. for the introduction and the 200 modules, but in July, the website may be getting reformatted so the members may want to look into it sooner rather than later.

Dr. Rhoads asked Mrs. Lesure about the Property Registration Form that is on the town website. It was believed to for vacant properties only. Mrs. Lesure said that when she came into the position, she was under the impression it was being used for rental property registration. She researched further and spoke with Scott Koczela (former Code Enforcement Officer), who informed her that he used this form for communication reasons, contact information and did not collect a fee for it. She had researched further into prior Board of Health minutes to find out if there were any fees associated with the "Rental" Property Registration Form usage. Vacant Property does have the fee. Mrs. Lesure feels that the form should clearly be marked to be used for Vacant properties and if we wanted to continue with the Rental Property Registration Form as well, then that should be marked accordingly without a fee.

**Old Business:**

- ***Up & Adams Wellness Initiative 2023 update***

- **Report for funders, suggest by July 12**

Mr. Rosenberg asked to hold off on speaking about this until Mrs. Lenski arrives and can speak to it. Dr. Rhoads asked if Mr. Rosenberg and/or Mrs. Lenski provide a couple of paragraphs stating how the program went.

Ms. Lenski mentioned that the first 12 weeks was a different population from the 2<sup>nd</sup> series which is great. There have been about 75 total individuals partaking in this program.

- **Reallocation of unspent BPHA grant funds (approved May 25; awaiting letter & fund balance)**

Dr. Rhoads is awaiting the approval letter. Currently the funding balance is at \$192.

- **Foraging with Molly & acknowledgment of funding by BPHA via Adams BOH**

Dr. Rhoads spoke with Molly and she was surprised with the number of new people who came to the Foraging event.

- **Apartment building recycling issues / Refer to Solid Waste Advisory Committee / SWAC status**  
Dr. Rhoads said Linda Cernik agrees that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee could focus on this subject. He asked for a motion to refer apartment recycling initiative to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee; Dr. Oberlin motioned, Ms. Wilson seconded, all voted Yes unanimously.
- **Ashuwillticook Rail Trail: “No Smoking” signs plus motorized bike prohibition**  
Dr. Rhoads said that he ran into a couple of people on the what he believed to be electric bicycles. The regulation sign that DCR has on the trail indicates no motorized vehicles. The sign on Hoosac St facing the Visitor indicates no motor bikes which he thinks would include any type of motor. He reached out to Becky Barnes who manages the rail trail. She will work with the park rangers be more involved. There is concern that the electric bikes have no sound and could potentially be unsafe. The electric bikes are can be manually petaled so it may be difficult to keep them off the trail.
- **BOH web page**
  - **Permitted hauler list updated; SMI entry removed; Tobacco/vaping (cap status updated)**
    - Dr. Rhoads updated the hauler list. There are 7 permitted haulers. T
    - The Specialty Mineral entry has been removed.
    - The current regulation for Tobacco / Vaping vendors is capped at 9 based on population and there are currently 11 active permits as of Nov 2021 which will remain the limit unless they no longer carry or renew their license.
  - **“Waste Disposal Resources” tab → “Recycling / Solid waste / Composting”**  
Dr. Rhoads to work with the Town Clerk to update the website.
  - **Fee schedule / Property Information Registration Form clarification**  
This was discussed earlier in the meeting with Mrs. Lesure.
  - **Add a “Resources” document to the “Wells” tab**  
Dr. Rhoads  
Dr. Oberlin asked what was the motivation of updating this regulation. She heard there were more regulations updates coming down the pipeline. Dr. Rhoads said they can revise the revisions when necessary.  
Oberlin said that she had heard that you can not drill for a well if your property is able to connect to the town water lines.
- **Herbicide spraying by Pan Am sub-contractor (plan from vendor pending)**  
Dr. Rhoads in contact with PanAm. He was informed that the sprayers they use are very accurate and believe the spraying last year that was encountered, was from a rogue sprayer. Dr. Rhoads will ask Tim Cota (DPW Supervisor) to see if they can weed control of the brush on trail side of the fence. He would like to post up a sign that herbicide spraying by authorized vendors

only and keep themselves as well as their pets on the trail side of the fence. He would inquire with Pan-Am to get permission to post such signs.

#### **New Business:**

- **Reallocation of unspent BPHA grant funds by Up & Adams for BOH "giveaways"**  
Dr. Rhoads awaiting the final dollar amount of items. He purchased \$120 of sunglasses and \$35 of tick removers. He will request 50% of reimbursement cost so he can purchase more tick removers. Dr. Oberlin asked if the sunglasses were UV rated and Dr. Rhoads confirmed they were. Ms. Wilson will be able to attend the Adams Street Fair. Dr. Rhoads suggested that we screen the event goers, to not just hand out the tick removers to anyone. Ms. Wilson suggested a game to hand out or perhaps a survey asking what their favorite outdoor activities are.
- **Training status: Volunteer to maintain certificate database?**
  - **Current priority: National Incident Management System (NIMS) & Incident Command System (ICS)**  
Dr. Rhoads will hold until next month. Mrs. Lesure suggested the new administrative assistant that is coming on board soon. Dr. Rhoads explained that there are these are training exercises.
- **Private wells: Review of the 2000 regulations; consideration of updating.**  
Dr. Rhoads said he would rewrite for next month's meeting. Dr. Oberlin asked what the motivation is behind this subject. She mentioned that there were more regulations coming down the pipeline. Dr. Rhoads said that we can always revise the revision in the future. He has 2 concerns:
  - 1) Certified Well Drillers refer to the Dept of Environment Management which is no longer and has merged with Municipal District Commission and became DCR
  - 2) Increased regulations and PFAS and model regulations go into detailDr. Oberlin said that she had learned that the new regulations include no drilling of wells on property that can be connected to town water. She will double check that.

Mrs. Lesure confirmed to Dr. Rhoads question that a permit cannot be provided to the well driller until they have produced their credentials and plans. Until she has more experience in this, she does not feel comfortable providing input at this time.

Dr. Rhoads continued to review the regulations and additional edits were noted. He will update.

Ms. Erin Lenski arrived and returned to the Up and Adams update of the agenda.

#### **Local & County Updates:**

- **DPH Capacity Assessment: Update (follow-up from our submission)**  
Dr. Rhoads said there has been no further updates at this time.
- **Racial Equity 101 Training briefing: (5/22; Dave)**  
Dr. Rhoads said that the 3 hour training was good and was very interactive with a wide range of perspectives. There will be a 2nd session coming up.
- **MHAB Certificate Program briefing (6/3; Amy)**

Dr. Oberlin attended the 5 hour session. She noted the recent state supreme court ruling on open meetings regarding the case in a small town in which you cannot limit someone's form of speech. It is still unclear where we can draw the line when someone is verbally aggressive. The phrase they landed on was if there is imminent threat of violence, then how do you define violence? The suggestion was that we set parameters for public comment such as limiting time and people can speak about the agenda items for that meeting only. The second thing was to regulate hemp products. Not the THC products that are already regulated, but the ones that are sold that have a certain form of THC in them called delta 8 and is not regulated and can be in forms of candy and sold to children. There have been findings of traces of bleach as well. She did say that DPH is working on this too. Dr. Rhoads will look into this.

- **Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District: recent activities**

Dr. Rhoads said that the bulky waste collection in Adams is coming up on June 24. Future dates for Clarksburg and Lanesborough. We are currently working on a grant for recycling and trying to reconstitute the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. He will keep us updated.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- **6/17: Adams Faerie Fest**

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

- **6/24: Adams Street Fair, Saturday Noon-6 pm (Misting tent reserved; booth staffing; materials)**

Dr. Rhoads said that the Water Dept has agreed to set up the misting tent in the back parking lot. He will speak with Joe Martin (Adams Street Fair organizer) to determine where the BOH table will be set up. Ms. Wilson said that she will be preparing a recycling game for kids to participate in to help educate them on the importance of recycling and to start early in life.

- **NBSWMD: Bulky/Electronics Collections Adams (6/24), Lanesborough (9/16), Clarksburg (10/7)**

#### **Review Mail:**

- **BCBOHA calendar for June**

- **CDC update on Mpox (formerly monkey pox); email 5/15/23 with PDF**

Dr. Rhoads said he had not heard from the community and not aware of any cases?

- **Availability of \$5 rapid antigen tests from DPH (email 5/15/23)**

- **DCR/Mt. Greylock/Bascom Lodge: Boil water order lifted. Well was successfully repaired & upgraded.**

Dr. Rhoads received a notification from DEP indicating that there is a water system in place at Bascom Lodge. They have chloroform in the well and had been providing bottled water. They recently cleaned the well.

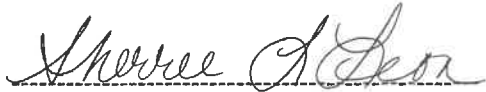
#### **For the Good of the Order:**

Ms. Wilson asked about the air quality issue and if there is anything we need to do should it become an emergency situation. Dr. Rhoads mentioned that he asked the Town Clerk to post it. All we do at this point, is communicate that it's a potential issue for some and to stay indoors.

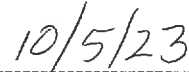
**Schedule Next Meeting: July 12 scheduled; August 2,9,16?**

It was decided to skip July and meet on August 2 and September 13 as Dr. Rhoads will not be available from mid-August to September 3.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Wilson motioned to adjourn. Dr. Oberlin seconded. All members voted Yes unanimously. Adjourned at 5:15pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sherrie Leon", written over a horizontal dashed line.

Sherrie Leon on behalf of Michelle DeRose  
Administrative Assistant

A handwritten date "10/5/23" written in cursive script, positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Date