

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 6, 2017**

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18 JAN -4 AM 9:07

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Hoyt called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Peter Hoyt, Vice-Chairman David Rhoads, Bruce Shepley, Tom Romaniak (Code Enforcement), Pam Gerry (Administrative Assistant)

TOWN CLERK

2015 TOWN

CLERK

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jack Guerino, (iBerkshires), William Martischmig

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the Nov 1 meeting was circulated. B. Shepley moved to accept, P. Hoyt seconded & the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CLOSED CASES:**

- 23½ Murray St.: Progress on the rehab looks great. Previous issues were more than adequately resolved.
- 29-31 Burt St.: The fine for the unregistered vehicles was paid & the vehicles removed.
- 13 Grant St.: T. Romaniak observed that the place now looks livable, although he couldn't talk directly to the tenant.
- 6 Lower Linden St.: An occupant returning from the hospital reported bedbugs in his unit to the BOH office. An exterminator had been called, but he initially refused to treat the unit until furniture was moved from walls. Neither T. Romaniak nor D. Torrico were available, so the case was referred to B. Shepley. He contacted the complainant, ultimately learning that the exterminator had returned & completed the job.
- 5 Smith St.: D. Torrico & T. Romaniak both agreed that the front retaining wall, though cracked & shifting, was indeed stable.
- 103 North Summer St.: Egress issues were resolved (clothes rack removed) & outlets were fixed.
- 18 Pleasant St.: Lack of heat due to a faulty heater has apparently been an ongoing issue. T. Romaniak met with the landlord, who was very helpful & fully addressed the issue. This case is now resolved.
- 14 Commercial St.: Strange odor at Hoosac Valley Elementary School was due to work on the roof. D. Torrico investigated & identified a health issue, which was subsequently corrected.
- 29 Burt St.: Complaint turned out to be a police issue, who were also called, so BOH has stepped away.

**CURRENT CASES:**

- 29 Orchard St.: T. Romaniak hasn't been able to meet with the individual working on house clean-up & unregistered vehicles. We'll keep this case open until the issue are resolved to our satisfaction.
- Laliberte truck signage (PJ's Trash & Appliance Removal): Mr. Laliberte has apparently obtained a new dump truck. His original truck with non-compliant signage is currently stored in his back yard. This case will be kept open awaiting further information.
- Curtis Paper Mill (115 Howland): P. Hoyt met with TA Mazzucco, who informed him that the Town was in the process of assuming possession of the property. Keep this case open to monitor status.
- 25 Pine St.: The occupant claimed that the leaking toilet was fixed & that he would obtain a permit for his chickens (wasn't aware of regulation). The trash was gone. Keep this case open for now.

**VIOLATIONS:** None

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Expired propane tanks: We reaffirmed our position that the Transfer Station should not accept propane tanks. We made changes to a draft flyer stating this policy & suggesting alternative disposal options to be made available at the TS. A motion to adopt the "No Tank" policy & the flyer was approved unanimously. P. Gerry will make copies of the flyer & D. Rhoads will take them to the TS.
- Emergency Dispensing Site: B. Shepley stated that no new information is available. Given the uncertain status of Adams Memorial School (see below), our current EDS would default to St. Elizabeth's Parish in N. Adams, the next nearest site in the northern Berkshire region.
- BOH role in Town Emergency Management Plan: No new information is available. P. Hoyt did not hear back from TA Mazzucco (now resigned). The files provided by R. Kleiner, the Town's EMD, appear to be either outdated or unmodified templates. Keep this issue on our agenda (note 2<sup>nd</sup> New item below).

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Adams Transfer Station, one-month update: The Republic compactor has arrived. Subscriptions are getting close to 500. There has been a lot of positive feedback.
- Adams Emergency Management: B. Shepley & D. Rhoads attended the Northern Berkshire Regional Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting on 11/16. Committee Chairman AJ asked for an updated list of the Adams emergency preparedness team (including BOH) & a current emergency evacuation plan for home-bound residents in the event of a disaster (latter request is to fulfill new CMS guidelines regarding protection & care of such residents). B. Shepley will contact AJ for details on exactly what's needed.
- Berkshire Public Health Alliance: D. Rhoads attended the recent meeting 11/30. He reviewed the establishment & mission of the Alliance. Current efforts are directed toward making the operations self-sustaining (original reserve from state grant is being slowly depleted), promoting awareness of BPHA services, and increasing participation of the 26 member communities in usage & governance.
- Transfer Station yard waste stream: B. Shepley informed Adams DPW by email on 11/20 that municipal open brush burning is not permitted by MA DEP & requested that such burning cease immediately. No reply has been received to date. B. Shepley will draft a formal letter to be mailed by P. Gerry to the relevant parties: DPW, Safety Committee, Forest Warden R. Kleiner, Board of Selectmen, Building Commissioner D. Torrico, Town Administrator, BOH & NBSWMD L. Cernik.
- Adams Memorial Middle School: B. Shepley is waiting for input from state officials. Continue for now.
- Dementia Friendly Workshops (BCBOHA sponsored): B. Shepley informed us that Allison Egan of BRPC has assembled workshops to educate BOH members & other interested individuals in recognizing signs of dementia, sensitive responses & awareness of resources to deal with dementia. B. Shepley will get more information on the scope of the workshop(s) & reach out to others in the community (COA, medical/dental offices, Town Hall, etc.) to determine what wider interest exists in the community.

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- B. Shepley indicated that he will begin regularly attending Western Mass Public Health Association (WMPHA) meetings, a regional support group to assist local boards of health with educational opportunities & technical expertise.
- D. Rhoads: At the BPHA meeting, host Laura Kittross informed the governing board of a tick testing program offered by UMass-Amherst ([ag.umass.edu/services/tick-borne-disease-diagnostics](http://ag.umass.edu/services/tick-borne-disease-diagnostics)). The fee for an individual test is \$50, with a discount available for guaranteed number of tests. B. Shepley asked what Mass DPH offered & D. Rhoads said that he would investigate.
- P. Hoyt: Police Chief Tarsa approached him regarding our interest in a training program for proper approach to biohazard sites & crime scenes. All were in favor of pursuing this opportunity. B. Shepley asked if we were being invited to the training or asked to host it. P. Hoyt will follow up with Chief Tarsa.

**REVIEW MAIL:**


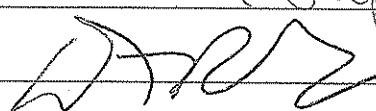
- Potential 7 Eleven HazMat release: Receipt of the DEP request for information from 7 Eleven was acknowledged. No further action was deemed necessary at this time.
- Specialty Minerals report: Receipt of the bimonthly environmental report was acknowledged. P. Gerry will scan it for circulation.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2018 at 4:00 pm.

**ADJOURN:** D. Rhoads moved to adjourn, seconded by B. Shepley & passed unanimously at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date 1/3/18

  
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Ben Dale Shepley  
  
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D. Rhoads