

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, April 6, 2022

BOH Members Present: Chairman Dr. David Rhoads, Vice-Chair Joyce Brewer, Member Dr. Peter Hoyt
Others Present: Mark Blaisdell-Code Enforcer, Michelle DeRose-Administrative Assistant, Atty. Edward St. John – Town Council, Brian Rhodes-iBerkshires (virtual)

Call to Order: Chairman Rhoads called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and read the notice on the recording of the meeting

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.

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/87156840337?pwd=L3ZlbEhUVVgzLy9tWDk2MVduQjQxdz09>
or go to “zoom.us/join” or call 1-929-436-2866 (New York) and enter meeting information
Meeting ID: 871 5684 0337
Passcode: 168165

Moment of Silence: Remembering Bill Martischig

Dr. Rhoads started the meeting with a moment of silence as he had met him years ago upon first joining the board and he was a constant attendee here. We mourn his passing. He is a great guy with a big smile.

Covid-19 Report: Current report (#24), other Covid-19 news

Dr. Rhoads shared the latest Covid update that continues to be posted on the website regularly. There were very little changes as cases are picking up but are still low. The larger concern is that there were 7 patients at BMC currently. And the largest concern is the number of vaccinations each week are very low. Boosting is encouraged. He will continue to post updates on the website.

Public Comment: Comments on Covid-19 responses:

None

Public Comment: Comments on other issues:

None

Public Hearing:

None

Approval of Minutes: March 2, 2022

Ms. Brewer provided edits with some rephrasing Ms. Brewer motioned to approve minutes as amended. Dr. Hoyt seconded. All voted yes unanimously.

Code Enforcement Officer:

None

Old Business:

- **Continuation of hybrid meetings:** Dr. Rhoads spoke with Jay Green, Town Administrator. Mr. Green brought up that the Town will proceed with in-person meetings. Dr. Rhoads was unsure of when waiver ends from the State and Dr. Hoyt believed it had been extended to July per Mark Blaisdell's notice last month. Dr. Rhoads said that we will meet April 27th and make the decision in May what we will do.
- **Discover Books – Donation Bin Update:** Dr. Rhoads said Linda Cernik has a contact at Old Stone Mill (Leni Fried) There were 2 bins installed. Both Linda and Leni were invited to today's meeting but were unavailable to be here. There are the Discover Book bins but also 1 or 2 Textile Recovery bins at this location.
- **Berkshire Harm Reduction Services / Approval of vendor to provide syringe services:** Dr. Rhoads received an email to approve the provider of syringe services (Berkshire Health Systems-BHS) to post that the van will come to Adams for services. Dr. Rhoads requested a motion to approve BHS as the provider of syringe services to the Town of Adams via mobile van and work with them to assure a beneficial and efficient process for the harm reduction program. Ms. Brewer so moved, Dr. Hoyt seconded. Discussion: Dr Hoyt wanted to confirm that the Harm Reduction program is part of the Berkshire Health System. All voted Yes unanimously and Dr. Rhoads will inform Linda Goldman tonight.

New Business:

- **Rescind "Revised Emergency Orders / Workplace Safety Standards" dated December 3, 2021:** Dr. Rhoads asked Mr. Blaisdell if he agreed with rescinding the Revised Emergency Orders / Workplace Safety Standards. Mr. Blaisdell agreed. Dr. Rhoads requested a motion to rescind the Revised Emergency Orders / Workplace Safety Standards dated December 3, 2021. Ms. Brewer motioned, Dr. Hoyt seconded. Dr. Rhoads thanked Mr. Blaisdell for issuing these timely orders. All voted Yes unanimously. Dr. Hoyt asked how the businesses would be notified. Mr. Blaisdell said with the same measures they were notified of the order.
- **FY2023 Public Health Nursing Contract** Dr. Rhoads stated that the Public Health Alliance is the only "vendor" in the community. The renewal documents have been circulated and requires a signature from the Town Administrator. There was an increase in price and not as high as anticipated. The cost is approximately \$4300 and includes monitoring of tuberculosis and treatment, wellness and vaccination clinics. We hope we will be able to take advantage of this in the upcoming year. Dr. Rhoads requested a motion to recommend that the Town Administrator sign the Public Health Nursing contract with Berkshire Health Alliance. Dr. Hoyt so moved, Ms. Brewer seconded, All voted Yes unanimously and Dr. Rhoads will let Jay Green know.
- **Transfer Station status (Linda Cernik: Data, finances, grants, diversion efforts, upcoming mandates)** Dr. Rhoads said we will postpone this discussion since Linda Cernik is not available to discuss at this time. There are several things to discuss such as number of items on the waste ban - organic waste, bulky waste of furniture and mattresses and we need to make the special effort for the proper disposal of these items. There is a Hazardous Waste of household items coming up April 23rd and individuals need to pre-register.

- **BRPC support request for EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring grant**

Dr. Rhoads sent the board a copy of the email that was received from Laura Kittross and Tom Matuszko. The EPA is offering grants that are available to Adams and are looking to install air sensors to map air quality in conjunction with Environmental Justice districts to place 8 sensors in Adams and neighboring communities. They asked for a letter of support which Dr. Rhoads and Mr. Blaisdell signed. Dr. Rhoads wanted to share with the board that they did that.

- **Update of BOH fee schedule (tobacco vendor cap, etc.)**

Dr. Rhoads shared the suggested revised fee schedule which there were no changes in the fees. The changes were the revised date and the cap in the tobacco vendors, which as of April 2022, the cap is 10. Currently there are 11 licensed vendors and if one loses their license, it cannot be renewed or a new vendor cannot apply until there is an opening. The only exception may be for Cumberland Farms when they move from their current location to the new location.

Currently we rely on Berkshire Public Health Alliance for Title 5 inspections (Septic systems). Mr. Blaisdell mentioned that he will be trained for Title 5 and added that it does not cost the Town anything extra for the Alliance to do the inspections and Dr. Rhoads said that they invoice the homeowner separately.

Dr. Hoyt asked if we are just approving the language on the Fee Schedule and this will be posted. Dr. Rhoads answered yes. Dr. Hoyt motioned. Ms. Brewer seconded as it was clarified by Atty St. John that she could vote as the regulation has already been made. All voted Yes unanimously.

- **Sunglasses for Kids**

Dr. Rhoads checked the website (CTS Wholesale) and there are several varieties of kids sunglasses. If you purchase \$99 with free shipping. He suggested purchasing \$120 worth and start giving them out at town events. The Adams Street Fair will be July 24 and other earlier events. He requested approval from the board to order. Dr. Hoyt recalls that funds came from a grant and may have been deposited into a budget line. Dr. Rhoads is not aware of that and Mrs. DeRose did not research that deeply into it. Mrs. DeRose stated the last time it was ordered, a personal credit card was used to purchase and then reimbursed. Mrs. DeRose will confirm with Mr. Garner that this purchase can be made. Dr. Hoyt motioned to request approval of the purchase of the sunglasses. Ms. Brewer seconded. All voted Yes unanimously. Coordination of the purchase can be worked out through Mrs. DeRose.

Local & County Updates:

none

Upcoming Events:

- **April 23: Household hazardous waste collection**
Registration is April 5- 21 or until at full capacity (150)

Review Mail:

- **Hoosac Valley Coal & Grain: TRC Environmental Corp letter, 3/14/22, regarding abatement**
Dr. Rhoads said there is work is being done to abate that property. The abatement plan will be sent to the Community Development Dept and we would like to have a copy of the plan. He's happy to see this moving forward and is okay with letting the process go as is.
- **Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI): FRCOG email 3/24**

There are more cases in the state. Lanesborough has a case. Please be aware of this and report if you witness any ill fowl. Wild birds are not showing symptoms. Mr. Rhodes of iBerkshires asked for the information on this and Dr. Rhoads will forward that to him.

For the Good of the Order

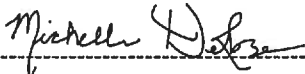
Dr. Rhoads wanted to express his gratitude towards Ms. Brewer and Dr. Hoyt for their service. We may meet on April 27. Ms. Brewer is willing to fill in if she's available.

Schedule Next Meetings: April 27; May 11 [Note: Town Election is May 2]

Adjournment:

Dr. Rhoads asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brewer so moved, Dr. Hoyt seconded. Voted Yes unanimously. Adjourned at 4:40pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle DeRose
Administrative Assistant

5/5/2022

Date