

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Tuesday April 2, 2019 – 5:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road

PRESENT: Ms. Louise Maron, Chair; Mr. Andrew Fisher; Mr. Peter Cohen; Mr. Anthony Segal; Mr. Fred Schubert; Mr. John Olander, Agent; Ms. Phyllis LeBeau, Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Ms. Jayne Smith, Berkshire Public Health Alliance; Ms. Emilie Jarrett, RN, Community Health Assn.; Ms. Claudia Ryan

Ms. Maron announced to the Board that she needed to step back from her role as Chair of the Board of Health, effective immediately. The Board acknowledged Ms. Maron's years of excellent leadership and discussed how to move forward. It was decided that the Board would revert to its earlier system of each of the members taking three-month turns acting as Chair. Mr. Anthony Segal volunteered to begin the cycle as Chair for the May 7, 2019 meeting to run through July of 2019.

Review and Approval of Minutes of the March 5, 2019 Meeting: There being no comments or changes requested, Mr. Schubert moved that the minutes of the March 5, 2019 be accepted as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Segal and passed by unanimous approval.

Bartlett's Orchard – Review Issues and Present Status: Ms. Jayne Smith provided an update on the Bartlett's Orchard situation: she contacted Mr. Eric Bartlett to review the employee log sheets so that the Board could sign off on their application to declassify their water system and set up a testing schedule in the event they were able to be declassified. In her conversation with the Bartletts, she was advised that the application fee for declassifying a water system is just a little less than doing what the DEP had asked them to do. Therefore, they decided not to go ahead with the application to declassify the water but will be appealing to the State to obtain a more reasonable testing schedule and they are planning to install the upgraded UV system that the DEP had required. That means that the Board of Health is no longer being asked to sign the application for declassification. Ms. Smith suggested that the Board continue to monitor the testing results for Bartlett's water to be certain that the levels remain low. Should any test results show unacceptable levels of contaminants, a letter will be sent by the State to Mr. John Olander, the Board's Agent.

A discussion ensued concerning details of the State's requirement for testing of the water before it goes to the two Bartlett homes on the system and the confirmation of the piping involved. Mr. Schubert explained that the State's concern is the possibility of backflow from a line that is not tested before it goes through the UV system. If that is the concern, that can be addressed with the installation of backflow check valves. Ms. Smith noted that, at this point, the issue is between Bartlett's and the State and she will keep an eye on the progress and, if the Board receives a Letter of Noncompliance that shows that there are contamination issues, that

would become the Board's issue. In the meantime, if the Bartletts need anything from the Board they will ask.

Heirloom Fire – Report and Review: Ms. Smith met with Heirloom Fire and went over their plans with them. They are still working out some of the formatting and getting the equipment together, but they have made substantial progress since their meeting with the Board in March. Once everything is in final form, Ms. Smith will inspect and approve the set up.

Balderdash Letter: Ms. Maron reported that, in her conversation with Mr. Mark Pruhenski, the Town Administrator, about the Board of Health's comments on the Balderdash Application, Mr. Pruhenski agreed to have the Board of Health vote on their comment and get the letter to him by Wednesday of this week. Ms. Smith noted that Balderdash has already addressed many of the items requested in the letter and she has had conversations with them in which they said they are only proposing to use their kitchen for heating up pizza, making pizza from scratch and heating up "bar food." They do not intend to use the kitchen for a caterer, who would have to be self-sufficient. They have installed a dishwasher that sanitizes, which Ms. Smith has not yet seen, and Ms. Smith has also attempted to obtain the parameters for a grease trap from Pittsfield but has not been successful. The concern is for fats, oils and grease and if they use the kitchen only as they have outlined, there should not be a lot of fats, oils and grease going into their grease trap.

Mr. Tony Segal moved that the Board approve the letter as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Fisher and adopted by unanimous consent. Ms. Maron will sign the letter, and have it forwarded to Mr. Pruhenski for delivery to the Board of Selectmen.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reports on:

Emerging Infectious Diseases Workshop: Mr. Andy Fisher and Tony Segal attended the workshop. Ms. Emilie Jarrett, RN suggested to the Board that, in case of a major outbreak, the Town of Richmond would be responsible for communication to the public and whatever follow-up would need to be done. The Board needs to think about the small emergencies that come up rather than major outbreaks. She suggested that the Board of Health meet with the new Town Administrator and the Emergency Manager and talk about a communication strategy for any of the possible scenarios.

Safety Toolkit for Local Public Health Officials: (See attached) The group was asked whether anyone was interested in attending the workshop. Ms. Smith noted that this particular session is already sold-out, but she thought it might be offered again, given the response that was generated.

Update on Hepatitis-A Outbreak: Ms. Emilie Jarrett reported that the number of cases of Hepatitis A being reported are decreasing significantly, which is very good news. The Mass. DPH felt that the outbreak in Massachusetts turned out to be a small one. It was felt that the

prompt response with immunizations and the inclusion of the homeless to the list of individuals who should get the Hepatitis A vaccine helped to keep the numbers low, along with the extremely cold weather, which kept people out of shelters. A previous mass immunization program in 2003-2004 helped significantly to keep the numbers of new cases low.

Ms. Jarrett reported that there has been a measles case reported in Massachusetts as of yesterday. The vaccination rate in Massachusetts is at 95-98%, which is very high. There was a discussion of the level of vaccination at the Richmond School and the processes in place to protect the children in case of an outbreak. That process is overseen by the school nurse, DPH, and Emilie Jarrett RN, who would all work together to protect the community. The Richmond school nurse has been advised of the nationwide measles outbreak and the Massachusetts Hepatitis A outbreak and she is keeping on top of it.

County Health Initiative Event: This dealt with the relative wellness of various counties across the country, based on several indices such as the number of women who smoke during pregnancy, the incidence of teenage pregnancy, problems with drugs and alcohol, etc. Berkshire County was identified as ranking low on the scale of safety.

Food Catering Question: Ms. Jarrett asked Ms. Smith to provide a list of the documentation needed for a catered event she is planning in May. Ms. Smith will email the information to Ms. Jarrett.

MHOA-Annual Seminars and Updates from DEP and DPH: Ms. Jayne Smith and Mr. John Olander attended the seminar which dealt with air pollution, noise and septic issues. Mr. Olander sent the members of the Board copies of the slide show presented at the seminar via e-mail attachment.

Board of Health Opportunity to Impact Climate Change: Ms. Maron explained that Municipal Officials have an opportunity to vote on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Vote. The Issue is that buildings contribute 30% of all the greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts and that could be significantly improved with better building codes. Discussion ensued that resulted in the consensus that the issue is not applicable to Richmond and is outside the purview of the BOH.

Agent's Report: (See attached) – Mr. Olander expanded on the items included in his written report.

Topics Not Anticipated: There were no additional topics for discussion.

Next Board of Health Meeting – May 7, 2019 – 5:00 PM.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Schubert moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fisher and adopted by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM