

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday November 7, 2018 – 6:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road

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

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Ms. Emilie Jarrett, R.N., Community Health Association

Approval of the Minutes of the October 2, 2018 meeting: Mr. Fred Schubert moved that the minutes of the October 2, 2018 meeting be approved as read. Mr. Tony Segal seconded the motion, which was carried by unanimous consent.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Review Letter prepared by Jayne Smith to Camp Russel Directors re results of the State Inspection of the Camp. The letter was discussed and found to be well written and clear in its message. Mr. Andy Fisher moved that the letter be approved as read. He was seconded by Mr. Anthony Segal and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.
2. Water Safety Algorithm prepared by Mr. Cohen and Mr. Schubert (see attached). Mr. Schubert explained the process worked out in the algorithm: Water samples will be taken on Mondays and are to be in the hands of the testing lab within 24 hours of the time when the sample was taken. A report of the test results should be received by the Board within 18 hours (i.e. samples taken on Monday generate a report received by the Board on Wednesday).

The next question was who will be taking the samples and who will be receiving the subsequent lab reports. A discussion resulted in understanding that an employee of Berkshire Engineering (?) will take the samples. NOTE: Mr. Schubert will determine the proper name of the company that takes the samples and the lab that tests them.

The question of who receives the lab report was addressed and Ms. Jarrett suggested that the proper person for Camp Russell would be the Waterfront Director. The Richmond Shores Association lab reports will go to the President of the Association and the Town Beach lab reports will be sent to Ms. Maron, Mr. John Olander, Mr. Tony Segal and Mr. Andy Fisher. Ms. Maron noted that Mr. Peter Beckwith, the Richmond Highway Superintendent, oversees the life guards at the Pond and is also responsible for closing and opening the Pond as needed. She felt it would be important for Mr. Beckwith to be informed about the test results in order to fulfill that duty. Mr. Schubert will add Mr. Beckwith to the list of people who will receive all lab reports. Mr. Fisher

clarified that, although Mr. Beckwith will be receiving all the lab reports, it would fall to Mr. Fisher or to Mr. Segal to contact him in case of a positive e-coli count and advise him to close the beach and put up the warning signs. The person advising Mr. Beckwith to close the beach will also advise Mr. Mark Pruhenski, the Town Administrator, that the beach has been closed due to a positive lab report.

The beach will be closed after a positive report. The lab will re-test within 24 hours, assuming that obtaining a second sample is possible within that timeframe and report the results to the Board within 18 hours. If the re-test is negative, the beach will be re-opened by Mr. Beckwith upon advice by either Mr. Segal or Mr. Fisher. If the test comes back positive, the beach remains closed. After three positive test results in a row, a wait of seven days will be observed before retesting.

A discussion of the subject of testing for toxicity of the water due to harmful algal bloom (HAB) resulted in the consensus that it is unrealistic and probably unnecessary for the Town to do such testing. There have never been any reports of human illness due to water toxicity from the HABs. In the normal course of testing for e-coli levels, the lab would note if the water appeared to be showing signs of possible toxic contamination due to HABs and would report that.

A possible new sign for the beach was suggested that should read, "Beach water is not tested outside of these dates (). Swim at your own risk." A sign for the boat ramp would read "Beach is closed due to contamination." There is always a person at the ramp who can advise the public that the beach is closed.

Discussion of the Board of Health's liability. The lab notifies Camp Russell and Richmond Shores of a positive result, and they advise the Richmond Board of Health to close the beach. Mr. Olander will receive that information via email and pass the notice on to the appropriate people.

3. Follow-Up to Mr. Pilson's Meeting with Rep. Pignatelli on the Threat of Toxic Algal Growth in Berkshire County: Ms. Mason asked if anyone on the Board had heard from Mr. Pilson about that conversation. No one had received any word.
4. Report on Conference at BCC on local lakes and ponds on November 17th: Mr. Peter Cohen planned to attend that meeting and report back to the Board.
5. Review, vote and prepare comments on two Special Permit applications: One for a proposed barn structure on the Deval Patrick property and the other for a proposed structure on the Ballinger/Yarmosky property.

After considerable discussion, the consensus of the Board was that the Board of Health has no jurisdictional interest in the permit as submitted. If subsequent plans indicate that bathrooms or kitchens are to be included in the structure, the Board will want to examine the plans for the proposed septic system to support them. Mr. Schubert will forward the Board's comment to Mr. Mark Pruhenski.

OLD BUSINESS:

Save the Date Reminder: Tick-Borne Disease Symposium, 2018: UMass, Amherst is hosting this symposium. Mr. John Olander expressed some interest in attending.

Reports on Alliance/BCBOHA Focus Groups – 10/17/18: Ms. Maron explained that what they are trying to accomplish is to create a List Serve of all the Boards of Health in Berkshire County. Ms. Maron said that what came out of the meetings was that peer-to-peer communication via email was the most valued form of interaction.

NEW BUSINESS:

Richmond Invoices – BPHA Services: (See Attached) The Board reviewed the invoices with the attached support summary of services. Mr. Andrew Fisher moved that the Board approve payment of the two invoices as submitted. He was seconded by Mr. Segal and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote. Mr. John Olander will submit the invoices to be warranted in the Board of Health account for contracted services.

CPTC Fall Training 2018 Subdivision Control Law & Zoning Exemptions: There was no interest.

Agent's Report and Mail: See attached. Mr. Olander expanded on the items listed in his report.

Unanticipated Topics:

Frequently Asked Questions for the Board of Health Website: Mr. Olander put together a list and submitted it to Mr. Pruhenski for posting on the website.

Hilltop Orchards Abutters Suing over Noise: Ms. Maron reported that a suit has begun. It was noted that at the October Special Town Meeting, new bylaws governing noise were promulgated with the approval of the residents.

Next Meeting Date: December 4, 2018. Ms. Maron reported that she will be recovering from cataract surgery on December 4th and will not be available for that meeting. It was

decided that Ms. Maron will forward the agenda items to Ms. Phyllis LeBeau to create the agenda and distribute it to the Board.

In response to a request to change the regular meeting time, the Board agreed to have the monthly meetings begin at 5:00 PM instead of 6:00.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Segal moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fred Schubert and adopted by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM