

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Thursday September 6, 2018 – 3:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road

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

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Mr. Carl Foote, Richmond Pond Association, Mr. Neal Pilson, Selectman; Mr. Peter Beckwith, Highway Superintendent; Mr. Mark Pruhenski, Town Administrator; Mr. Nick Bruzzi, Housatonic Basin Testing Facility

Beach Water Testing and Signage: Ms. Maron opened the meeting at 6:04 PM and turned the meeting over to Mr. Peter Cohen for his presentation on beach testing and signage. He first asked for clarification as to which of the beaches the Richmond Board of Health is responsible for and was advised that it was: the Richmond Town Beach, the Camp Russell Beach, and the Richmond Shores Beach – those three. Of those three, the Richmond Shores and the Camp Russell Beaches are tested by their owners. There was a conversation between Mr. Cohen and Mr. Carl Foote, Richmond Pond Association, concerning random testing by the Association of the tributaries of the beaches for nitrates. Mr. Foot collects the samples and sends them to Premiere Labs in Lee for testing. Mr. Cohen asked when the testing for the 3 beaches is usually done. Mr. Foote replied that it changes from year to year – this year the testing has been done on Wednesdays. There was a discussion about the timing of testing, particularly with regard to those times when high levels of e-coli bacteria are found, and the beach is closed. If a second test of the water shows acceptably lower levels of the bacteria, the beach can be reopened. Further discussion of the most advantageous timing of those tests resulted in an agreement to make Mondays the routine day to collect the samples so that there will be opportunities for further testing that could prevent the beach from remaining closed over the weekend, with the understanding that if the Beach is not accessible on a Monday, some alternate day will be chosen.

There was a discussion of the length of time after a sample is collected and submitted to the lab that the results are available to the Board of Health. Mr. Nick Bruzzi, of Housatonic Basin Testing Facility, advised the Board that they offer an 18-hour testing turn-around instead of the current 24-hour turn-around, which would reduce reporting time. That alternative met with approval by the Board.

The discussion then turned to exactly who would be notified of test results and how the beach would get closed. The lab will advise Mr. Andy Fisher and Mr. Tony Segal, Board of Health members, and Mr. John Olander, the Board of Health agent; and they will contact Mr. Beckwith, the Highway Superintendent, and direct him to close (or subsequently to re-open) the beach. It was decided that, to establish a fail-safe system, Mr. Beckwith be added to the list of people to

receive direct notice of high levels of e-coli at the beach. Once he has received that message, and if he does not then receive a message from one of the Board of Health members directing him to close the beach, it will be his responsibility to contact a Board of Health member to ask for direction.

Mr. Cohen turned the discussion to the signage required for a beach closed due to contamination. The statute addressing signage is as follows: **105 CMR 445.040: Posting and Reopening Notifications**, which specifies the following wording:

“WARNING! NO SWIMMING.

SWIMMING MAY CAUSE ILLNESS

and a graphic depiction of a swimmer in a red circle with a diagonal hatch mark. The sign shall also contain the reason for the warning, the date of the posting and the name and telephone number of the Board of Health. For conditions solely related to physical hazards, the word “injury” may be substituted for “illness” in the required notification.

In further discussion as to who will receive results of the tests for all the beaches, it was decided that Mr. Segal and Mr. Fisher will receive that information from the lab. If the initial test result is unacceptable, the water will automatically be tested again the next day. The Board of Health will advise Richmond Shores and Camp Russell of unacceptable levels from the initial testing, but as they are both contracted directly with the lab, it will be up to them to request a re-test. Mr. Fisher noted that if the levels are still high after the second test, the Board of Health will decide how often to request additional testing on the Town Beach.

In response to the question of who is responsible to submit reports of positive test results to the Department of Public Health. Mr. Pruhenski noted that his office maintains a spreadsheet with the dates of closures for the Pond and the dates of re-openings, which goes to the Department for each closure and re-opening. The Board of Health members also receive a cumulative report of closings and openings from the lab.

Mr. Schubert suggested that the Board members review the minutes arising from this meeting to get a clear idea of what was discussed and what was agreed upon and use that information in subsequent meetings through the coming winter months to form a final system for dealing with water testing, closing and re-openings of the beaches. The object would be to create an algorithm that would dictate clearly and concisely how this issue is to be handled in the future. Mr. Schubert offered to create the algorithm from the minutes of this meeting as soon as they are available and bring that to the next meeting for review and discussion.

Ms. Louise Maron requested that she, as Chair of the Board of Health, and Mr. Pruhenski, as Town Administrator, be included in the list of people to whom all pertinent information about water testing will be sent. That was agreed to.

Review Minutes of August Meeting: Mr. Schubert moved to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peter Cohen and adopted by unanimous consent.

Camp Russell Update: The full report of the State re-inspection of Camp Russell was reviewed. (See attached) The result seemed to be mostly about the lack of documentation and no medical personnel present on trips outside of the Camp. It was suggested that Camp Russell be sent a letter, advising them that the Board of Health has received the results of the State re-inspection and were surprised to see so many items still needing their correction. Mr. Fred Schubert advised that Ms. Jayne Smith be asked to attend the next meeting so that she can comment on the letter and advise the Board as to how she plans to follow up over the next several months to prepare for next year's camping season. Ms. Maron will reach out to Ms. Smith and ask her to attend the October meeting.

HHAN Alert – West Nile Virus Testing - Moderate: Ms. Maron reported that an HHAN Alert on West Nile Virus Positive Pool for the week of August 5-10 and their recommendation for UVL spraying on all roads in a one-mile radius of the isolation at Lenox Road and Rte. 41. Residents were notified.

On August 30, 2018 West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Samples identified in many Mass. Towns. Pittsfield was included, but not Richmond or other nearby towns.

On August 31, 2018 a fifth confirmed human case of West Nile Virus and mosquitos in Suffolk County (Boston).

NEW BUSINESS

DPH Confirmed Case of Measles: A case of Measles was diagnosed at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center in Boston.

Preparedness Month Campaign Announcement: Know, Plan, Prepare information available.

BCBOHA Fall Dinner – Monday, October 22, 2018 – 4:30 PM: To be held at Berkshire Hills Country Club. The Board members are all planning to attend. Mr. John Olander will send in the reservations.

Common Ground Newsletter: Ms. Maron provided information received from the Newsletter on several issues of interest.

Berkshire Regional Planning List Serve Project: Ms. Maron reported on the proposed List Serve project being created by Berkshire Regional Planning. The List Serve is intended to provide a network for the sharing of experience and best practices and an opportunity to ask questions on a variety of issues on municipal government from their colleagues in other towns. Copies of the announcement were distributed to the members.

Agent's Report: (See Attached) Mr. John Olander reviewed the items on his report and provided further details where appropriate.

A discussion was begun of what protocol to follow when notifying the Town about closing the beach. It was decided that this discussion will be explored in greater depth at the October meeting.

Unanticipated Topic: Ms. Maron raised the issue of follow-up items noted in the minutes that were not dealt with at the subsequent meeting as they should have been. Ms. Maron went over several such items she put together from previous minutes.

It was suggested to Ms. Maron that she should make a list of all such action items and the people who were tasked with their follow-up from each meeting's minutes and put that list in the agenda for the following meeting.

There was a discussion of one of those action items that dealt with the availability for residents to have their wells tested and ideas for disseminating that information to the Town – "Be Well Informed." It was proposed that the Town Administrator be requested to advertise the availability of that service in the Town's e-newsletter and that the Town Tax Collector be asked to include that information in the next tax bill mailing. Mr. Fred Schubert will contact Mr. Lisi once the decision is made as to what the Board wants added to the mailing.

Next Meeting: the next meeting will take place on Tuesday October 2, 2018 at 6:00 PM.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tony Segal moved to adjourn the meeting. He was seconded by Mr. Andy Fisher and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.