

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 – 6:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall – 1524 State Road

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

GUESTS: Ms. Jayne Smith, Health Agent for the Berkshire Public Health Alliance; Ms. Emilie Jarrett, Director, Community Health Assn.

Ms. Maron opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with the announcement that Mr. Steve Traver, the Richmond Fire Chief, would be unable to attend the meeting today as he has a conflict with a standing meeting at the Fire Department.

PRIORITY TOPICS:

Disaster Planning: Mr. Peter Cohen relayed Mr. Traver's remarks to the effect that he is fully aware of what needs to be done and is on top of it. Mr. Cohen asked Mr. Traver if he checked on some elderly or disabled people in town during a storm to be sure they were all right. Mr. Traver replied that the Fire Department has a list of such people that they visit occasionally for that purpose. Mr. Cohen was concerned about people who are home alone and dependent upon oxygen. Ms. Jarrett assured him that people on oxygen have the support of the company that supplies the oxygen and she felt they were well looked after. However, she is aware that the Fire Department's list constantly needs updating and she would be happy to meet with the Fire Chief and go over the list with him. Mr. Cohen will contact Chief Traver and ask him to reach out to Emilie.

Camp Russell Action Plan – Ms. Jayne Smith: Ms. Smith has met with Mr. Joseph McGovern, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club, and was very pleased with the meeting. She reported that the Camp is working hard and getting their Policies and Procedures in order. The Camp's goal is to have all those ready by April 1st. Once the Parents' Manual is complete, Mr. McGovern will email the draft to Jayne for her review. The Emergency Response Manual that is being put together looks like it is going to be a solid document that will be easy to use and read. Mr. McGovern mentioned that he would like to attend the April meeting of the Board of Health, at which time most of the documentation should be completed. He also suggested that the new Camp Director attend as well. The Camp will also have a new Food Director at that time. The Camp has had a difficult winter with the theft of copper from their kitchen and bathrooms, which has led to the need to decide whether to demolish the existing bathrooms and rebuild now or build new ones now, close the existing ones, and demo after Camp closes.

Ms. Smith distributed a Self-Certification Form that she felt would be a helpful tool in the Board's determination of the progress that the Camp has made, although Mr. McGovern felt he would be able to meet all the requirements and did not need that form.

Ms. Smith then reminded the Board that they had agreed to join the FDA Enrollment and, because the Board is going through that process, Jayne was able to offer Mr. McGovern a grant that would pay for her to train the food staff. The Camp is also putting together a Staff Orientation Manual and they are changing their regular 2-day staff orientation to a week-long orientation. That would be the appropriate time for Jayne to do the food safety training.

Mr. McGovern is trying to get everything together for a thorough inspection of the whole camp on June 1st, before their opening on June 25th. Ms. Smith would be present at that inspection with a punch-list to follow. Mr. McGovern felt that would assure that the subsequent final inspection that the Town would do would assure the Camp a clean bill of health. Although the State Inspectors will not be present at this final inspection, Ms. Smith does intend to send the State a report on that inspection so that they can close out that file.

There was a discussion of the qualifications of the new Executive Camp Director, Mr. Joseph McGovern, which made it clear that the Camp was now under competent management. As evidence of this new management style, the Camp has asked that someone on staff have Narcan training.

The Board asked Ms. Smith to convey their congratulations and thanks for the excellent efforts being made to bring the Camp up to code. Ms. Smith said that the pressure the Board of Health put on the Camp management was key in having them take these important steps. Ms. Smith will meet with Mr. McGovern again before the April 3rd meeting of the Board of Health. At that time, she will invite him to attend that meeting. Ms. Maron will also send him a letter of invitation to that meeting.

Ms. Smith then advised the Board that the Central Regional Emergency Disaster Planning Committee will be having a table-top exercise on April 19th. This will be a full-scale exercise, including opening an Emergency Shelter. She asked that someone from the Board attend to represent Richmond.

In response to a question from Ms. Maron, Ms. Smith advised that Hilltop Orchards is now up to code and has appropriately hot water. The Board thanked Ms. Smith for her efforts.

Review/Approval of Minutes of the February 2018 Meeting: Ms. Maron congratulated Ms. LeBeau on the thoroughness and accuracy of the minutes. Mr. Segal moved that the minutes of the February 2018 meeting be accepted as read. He was seconded by Mr. Fred Schubert and the motion was carried by unanimous consent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Follow-Up on Smoking Regulations – Signage: Mr. Cohen reported that in his last conversation with Mr. Mark Pruhenski, Richmond Town Administrator, he was told that the signage would be taken care of.

How Local and State Tobacco Policies Intersect with Adult-Use of Marijuana: See Attached.

Copies of the document were distributed, and Ms. Maron asked that the members of the Board read it at home and return to the next meeting ready to discuss it. For example, this document raised the issue of smoking at outdoor seating at restaurants and bars, which was discussed briefly. The larger discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

BMC Nurses' Strike: The strike was called off.

Mass. Assn. of Health Boards (MAHB) – Cannabis Forum: Tuesday, March 27th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon at the Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

Age-Friendly Berkshires Action Plan Launch Celebration: March 13th - 8:30 – 11:30 AM at the Berkshire Hills Country Club. Mr. Peter Cohen and Ms. Phyllis LeBeau will be attending as representatives of the Richmond Council on Aging.

Local Public Health Workforce Survey-OPEM: John Olander has completed the survey on line.

MASS. Executive Office of Health and Human Services-Outbreak of Meningococcal Disease Among the Homeless: Two cases were recorded – both recovered. Homeless shelters are watching for symptoms and inoculating against the disease. Vaccines have been provided to the five-college consortium in the Pioneer Valley.

BCBOHA-Symposium on Creating a Task Force to Assess and Address Abandoned Residential Properties: Thursday, March 8th – 6:00 PM at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments in Greenfield.

Pittsfield Regional Emergency Dispensing Site – Tues., March 13th at 2:45 at the Huberg Middle School in Pittsfield. Mr. Tony Segal may attend.

Agent's Report: See Attached – Mr. John Olander, the Health Agent, went over the items. He noted that there have been ongoing problems with the septic system at the Town Hall. He also noted that he is currently working on revising and organizing the filing system for the Board of Health Agent.

UNANTICIPATED ISSUES:

Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection Training: Two four-hour sessions, on April 24th in Northampton and on May 2nd in Pittsfield will be offered. Mr. John Olander will attend.

Berkshire County Boards of Health (BCBOHA) Spring Dinner: Thursday, April 26th at 5:00 at the Country Club of Pittsfield. Mr. Tony Segal, Mr. Peter Cohen, Mr. John Olander, Mr. Andy Fisher, and Mr. Fred Schubert will attend. Ms. Emilie Jarrett will advise Mr. Olander if she will be available to attend.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 3rd at 6:00 PM.

Meeting Adjourned: A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.