

## BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Tuesday July 3, 2018 – 6:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road

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

### OLD BUSINESS

**Camp Russell Variances:** Mr. Schubert asked for the status of the variances for the Camp Russell wading pool fountain and the repairs to insulation damage. Mr. Olander reported that Ms. Jayne Smith had done the final inspection of the camp and then completed the paperwork. The assumption is that she has delivered the variances to the Camp as they were approved.

Mr. Peter Cohen noted that the Richmond Fire Chief, Steve Traver, had been to Camp Russell to inspect for fire hazards. The Chief reported that he was satisfied that everything was in good order and he approved the camp to open.

Mr. Olander reported that he was advised that the Building Inspector, Mr. Paul Greene, had also inspected the camp and found it in compliance.

The Board was very pleased to note that the Camp was well on its way to being fully in compliance with all requirements and able to be approved to open on schedule.

**Special Permit for Accessory Barn on Wood Lot Lane:** Mr. Schubert recalled that the Board had given its approval for the Accessory Barn, on condition that the Board would have an opportunity to see that the plan for the septic system associated with that building is adequate.

A discussion with Mr. Olander questioned whether the Board's approval would be required since the Building Permit had not yet been requested. It was determined that, since the Board had been sent a request for approval, it was their responsibility to either approve the variance or not. Although the Board had, at its last meeting, approved the variance conditionally, as there was no follow up with the owner of the property of that decision within the time limit, the Board's opinion is moot. Mr. Cohen will send an email to Mr. Mark Pruhenski, the Town Administrator, advising him of the Board's condition for approval of the variance so that it can be considered at the scheduled Board of Selectmen's meeting, where the variance will be officially considered.

**Arbovirus Questionnaire:** Mr. Schubert inquired of Mr. Olander whether the Town had ever submitted the requested data. Mr. Olander noted that he had discussed it with Mr. Pruhenski. Mr. Olander is the primary contact of record. It was thought, however, that Ms. Emily Jarrett, the Director of the Community Health Association, was the one who routinely responded to

these requests for data. Mr. Olander was unsure whether he had responded to the questionnaire and said he would look into it.

**Non-Smoking Sign Project:** Mr. Cohen advised that the no-smoking signs have been posted at the Boat Ramp and at the Town Beach. He has just recently received the list of additional locations at which they are to be posted: The three cemeteries, the Library, Town Hall and the Vehicle Barn. Mr. Cohen will follow up with seeing that they are posted.

A discussion of what action, if any, could be taken after the initial request to a smoker to desist if they continue to smoke. The consensus was that the signs themselves are the best means to stop people smoking. Most people are responsive to such reminders and will comply. There is no need for further action by anyone witnessing smoking in a no-smoking area, even though technically fines can be levied.

**Berkshire County Boards of Health Orientation Class-Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>:** This is a training for members of local Boards of Health. Mr. Segal noted that he had been to one. Mr. Schubert noted that it had been so long since he had attended this course he was planning to attend this one on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Peter Cohen said he would also attend on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**200 View Drive:** This is the continuing issue of the Air B&B installation that generated objections by its neighbors. There was an extensive correspondence between the owner of the property, Mr. Lazanby, and Mr. Mark Pruhenski that responded to each of the objections raised (See Attached Memo). One of the issues raised concerned the pool at the location and whether the water to fill the pool had been acquired appropriately and if it was tested on a regular basis. Mr. Lazanby noted that the pool had been filled only once, about ten years ago, by a professional company and that the water level had been maintained since by use of the water supply on the property

Mr. Olander sent Mr. Lazanby a memo that outlined all the requirements for the maintenance of a semi-private pool. Mr. Schubert requested that a copy of that memo be sent to him for his file.

The question of compliance of the septic system with the number of beds on the property was resolved with the information that the septic system was created to support the seven bedrooms in the building.

Mr. Schubert's reaction to the correspondence between Mr. Lazanby and Mr. Pruhenski was that Mr. Lazanby felt that the B&B was in compliance with all regulations but if the town felt it was not, the owners would be willing to bring the property into compliance with any reasonable request.

Mr. Schubert felt that there was no further action that the Board of Health needed to take on this issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Powhassen Virus in Columbia County, New York:** This is a newly discovered, rare virus carried by ticks, which can be deadly. (See information attached). Ms. Emilie Jarrett, R.N. is aware of this new discovery. Mr. Schubert will order a supply of the free warning signs about avoiding ticks, for placement at trail heads such as Perry's Peak in the hopes of reducing the incidence of tick-borne illnesses this season.

**Clinical Advisory on 'Increase in Opioid Related Overdose Deaths with Cocaine Present:'** This is another factor discovered in the overdose deaths being encountered.

**Report on Berkshire Public Health Alliance Meeting of June 21<sup>st</sup>:** Mr. Schubert attended that meeting and reported that the Alliance is experiencing increasing demand for their nursing and home-care follow-up services. This has resulted in the decision that, in order to overcome a \$20,000 shortfall in their budget and still maintain a reserve, they will have to increase the fees they charge the towns for those services. The Alliance is working on creating new marketing materials and will likely want to make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen to provide an overview of all the services they offer and make their case for the increase in fees.

Mr. Schubert also reported on a new State Special Commission that will be working on finding better ways to provide healthcare services to the towns in Massachusetts.

**Contracts with the Community Health Association:** Contract for FY2019 has been properly executed. It was recalled by the Board that Richmond agreed to an increase in the fee for their services last year.

**Approval of the Minutes of the June Meeting:** Mr. Peter Cohen moved to accept the Minutes of the June Meeting as read. He was seconded by Mr. Andrew Fisher and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**Agent's Report and Mail:** See Attached – Mr. Olander provided the background and explanation of the listed items in his report.

**Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.