

## **BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**Tuesday June 4, 2019 – 5:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Anthony Segal, Chair; Mr. Andrew Fisher, Mr. Fred Schubert; Ms. Louise Maron; Ms. Phyllis LeBeau, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT:** Mr. Peter Cohen; Mr. John Olander, Agent

**GUESTS:** Ms. Jayne Smith, Food Inspector; Ms. Emilie Jarrett, R.N., Community Health Assn.

**Approval of the Minutes of the May 7, 2019 Meeting:** Mr. Fred Schubert moved to approve the Minutes of the May 7, 2019 meeting as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Fisher and passed by unanimous consent.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Mr. Fred Schubert advised the Board that he has not yet created the algorithm to delineate the procedure for reporting test results of the pond water and/or closing the pond.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Hilltop Orchards:** Ms. Jayne Smith reported on her inspection of Hilltop Orchards (See Inspection Report attached) in which she encountered a situation with a house trailer parked next to the loading dock that serves as housing for a seasonal caretaker couple that has been coming to Hilltop Orchards every summer for twenty years. She noticed that wastewater coming from the trailer empties through pipes into the ground. On a subsequent visit, the pipe had been directed into a tub and it was explained that the only water being used in the trailer is that used to wash dishes and hands. The couple uses the shower and toilet facilities in the public area of the camp, not within the house trailer itself.

Although there were clear violations to the regular housing code, there was a question as to whether this situation could be considered a farm labor camp, for which the regulations are much looser.

Ms. Smith offered the Board three options to deal with the issue:

1. Refuse permission for the house trailer to be used as a residence on the Hilltop property and require that it be hooked up to a regular trailer park accommodation.
2. Allow the house trailer to remain on the property and use a tank to store the used water but hire a company to empty the tank holding the wastewater and bring it to a sewer treatment facility or create a dry well.
3. Classify the couple as farm workers so that no other similar situation could be argued to be acceptable unless proven to constitute a farm labor camp.

There was considerable discussion of the details of the arrangement and some concern about access for the couple to sanitary facilities. Mr. Fred Schubert suggested the possibility of restoring the toilet and shower arrangements within the house trailer and hiring a professional septic company to periodically empty the holding tanks so that appropriate standards could be achieved, and a proper housing situation could be created for the couple.

The consensus was that the Board does not have sufficient information at this time to make a decision. The owner of Hilltop Orchards will be given the feedback from this meeting and invited to attend the meeting in July to discuss his plans to correct the situation.

Ms. Smith also advised the Board that there is an additional issue at Hilltop Orchards concerning apple mash, which had been stored on the loading dock all winter. The problem is that where the mash is stored is too close to food preparation and compostable waste is not permitted to be stored close to food preparation.

Ms. Smith advised the Board that she has contacted the State and asked for a joint inspection to be done at Hilltop before the beginning of the cider season. Until then, she felt that they are engaged at this time in very low-risk processes.

Ms. Jarrett noted some additional problems included in the inspection report that caused concern. It was decided that a follow-up will be done at the July meeting.

**Special Event Permit Application for Berkshire Horse Works, Inc.:** It was suggested that, in future, the application might be amended to include information on what the water supply for the event will be, what sanitary facilities are being provided and what amount of food handling will happen.

**Agenda Format Discussion:** Ms. Maron raised the issue of the proper format for the agenda, which has changed since the chairmanship is now on a rotating basis. A discussion ensued that resulted in the consensus that the agenda is intended to advise the public of which body is meeting, the date and time of the meeting, the location of the meeting and the issues expected to be discussed and that a list of potential attendants is not required.

**Report from Ms. Emilie Jarrett, R.N. of the Community Health Assn.:** Ms. Jarrett reported that, in terms of ticks, this has been a bad spring and a handful of cases of anaplasmosis have been reported in Richmond. A six-month summary will be available at the end of June that she will bring to the July meeting.

Ms. Jarrett noted that tick precautions have been followed carefully and she has been sending patient who have had tick bites to the walk-in clinic for doses of Doxycyline, which has held down the number of cases.

**Trail Heads in Richmond for Signage:** Mr. Schubert reminded the Board that he was to have been sent a list of the trailheads in Richmond so that he could post signs advising the public

of the conditions of use. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Segal will send that information to Mr. Schubert.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Berkshire Lyme Alliance Newsletter:** The newsletter advised of a meeting of the Alliance on Saturday in Pittsfield.

**New Organization for the Board of Health Agent:** Ms. Claudia Ryan has been asked to expand her role to include fielding calls to Town Hall for the Board of Health and to forward the requests to the appropriate people. Procedural changes will be posted on a log, which will be available in the Board of Health mailbox.

**Ms. Josie Miller – Complaint of Possible Hoarding:** There was a short discussion that included reports of having looked at the site from the roadside and, finding no compelling evidence of hoarding, the issue was tabled.

**Agent's Report:** Mr. Olander being absent from the meeting, the agent's report was not read.

**Next Meeting** – Tuesday July 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM