

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday January 9, 2018 – 5:30 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road

PRESENT: Ms. Louise Maron, Chair; Mr. Peter Cohen; Mr. Andrew Fisher; Mr. John Olander, Agent; Mr. Anthony Segal

ABSENT:

GUEST: Ms. Jayne Smith, Berkshire Public Health Alliance; Ms. Emilie Jarrett, R.N., Community Health Assn.

Ms. Louise Maron called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The December 4, 2018 minutes were reviewed, and the date of the January meeting was changed to reflect the correct date of January 9th. Mr. Tony Segal moved to accept the minutes as corrected. He was seconded by Mr. Fred Schubert and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS:

1. Mr. Schubert has not yet advised Mr. Beckwith that he will be added to the list of those to be informed about water test results from Richmond Pond. He plans to follow up very soon.
2. Mr. Schubert was able to determine that the Lakes and Pond conference that was scheduled at BCC had been rescheduled at a different location.
3. Mr. Schubert sent a letter to Mr. Pruhenski about the Board's Comments on the Special Permits submitted to it.

CURRENT ACTION ITEMS:

1. Bartlett's Orchards and the DEP. Ms. Maron turned the discussion to Ms. Jayne Smith of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. Ms. Smith asked whether anything further had happened since the last meeting of the Board of Health. Mr. Peter Cohen noted that he had met with Mr. Mark Pruhenski, the Town Administrator, about the issue. Mr. Pruhenski suggested that the Board of Health act as mediator between Bartlett's and the DEP. Mr. Cohen pointed out that Ms. Smith had indicated that she knew Ms. Dougherty, the head of the DEP and the person overseeing the issue with Bartlett's Orchard. Mr. Cohen suggested that Ms. Smith call Ms. Dougherty at the DEP and act as liaison between Bartlett's and the DEP. His suggestion was met with immediate agreement. It was noted that the BOH does not have the DEP's perspective on the issue; they have only heard Bartlett's side.

Ms. Smith agreed to take on that position as she had dealt with the DEP extensively in the past. She will call and determine what the DEP's stance is on the issue. She was aware that, prior to Mr. Bartlett's visit with the DOH, he had submitted a proposal for a new UV Treatment System to the DEP and that it had been accepted.

Ms. Smith asked for a contact person from the Board with whom she could consult without having to wait for the next meeting. Mr. Cohen suggested that, although no individual member of the Board can make any decisions unilaterally, he would recommend Mr. Andy Fisher as a contact person.

There was a discussion of the information that had been provided to the Board at the meeting with Mr. Bartlett as to what steps he has taken to comply with the DEP's requirements and what steps he is willing to take in the future.

Ms. Smith asked the Board whether, given that a UV system has been installed and Bartlett's is willing to install an upgraded version, they had any concern about the retail food portion of the business. There was discussion of the meticulous care being taken in the operation of cider production and that there has never been an incident of contamination being found in the water used by Bartlett's, which clearly indicated that there was no cause for any concern on the part of the Board of Health.

Mr. Schubert asked that the letter that will go to the DEP contains an expression of support for Bartlett's as it now operates, if that is possible. Mr. Cohen suggested that Ms. Smith talk to the DEP first, that Mr. Schubert draft the letter and the Board review the information Ms. Smith will have obtained in her conversation and the letter to the DEP at the next meeting.

2. Special Permit Petition – George Rufo, III: Mr. Olander reported that the special permit was approved by the Board of Selectmen.
3. Special Permit Petition – Adams: Special permit required because of the size of the barn. The Board of Health had no comment on the petition as it stands.
4. FY'20 Budget Request and Town Report, 2018 – Mr. Schubert asked Mr. Olander if the Board should add money to the budget to provide for the Berkshire Public Health Alliance to provide more support for his responsibilities. There was a discussion of how Mr. Olander might get some clerical support for various paperwork requirements. It was suggested that the Senior Tax Write-Off program could provide some of that help. It was also noted that Ms. Claudia Ryan, the Town's Administrative Assistant, has available time in her workday and could easily take on some additional clerical duties.

Mr. Olander indicated that he needs to write up procedures for some of those duties and has not gotten around to approaching Ms. Ryan about taking on that work. Ms.

Smith described a procedure that is being worked up for some other small towns that might be helpful for Richmond to put in place.

Mr. Cohen asked whether Ms. Smith anticipated spending more of her time on behalf of Richmond than she had in the last year. She noted that, in addition to food inspections for which BPHA was hired, the camps also have other areas needing supervision and asked whether Richmond wanted to hire the BPHA again next year to accomplish those as well. There was general agreement that the Board would want to rehire Ms. Smith through the BPHA and Mr. Schubert asked that she meet with him to discuss the needed budget requests to make that happen.

Ms. Smith indicated that she would like to be responsible to send out the food permits and keep track of their return when she goes out to do inspections.

Mr. Schubert then asked the Board whether they would like to take advantage of the offer of a 3% salary increase for the Board members. The unanimous decision was not to take advantage of that increase.

NEW BUSINESS:

Food Service Issues: Ms. Smith reported on inspections she has done.

The Children's Study Home – This was the second inspection this year and everything looks good.

Heirloom Fire Catering – Inspected in October. Ms. Smith wants to do a water test and to inspect some high-risk activities they do at the location. She wants to work with them to develop a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Plan (HACCPP) for those high-risk procedures.

Ms. Smith also advised the Board that she plans to ask for water tests from all the food establishments that she covers. She will email inspection reports to the Board.

Hilltop Orchards – Once again they did not have hot water, but that has been remedied. They are not getting their cider tested as required so Ms. Smith is working with them to get set up with a testing facility. There was a conversation of the generally neglected appearance of the site. Mr. Olander noted that one of their septic systems is unusable and Ms. Smith noted that they have stopped their catering services. Mr. Olander will do an inspection to determine which of the septic systems is the one that is ruined.

Mr. Cohen asked whether the DEP inspects their water. Ms. Smith said that she was unaware of when the DEP last inspected their water, but she had contacted the Dept. of Public Health requesting a joint inspection of the facility. She is awaiting a response.

Ms. Smith suggested that the Board send Hilltop Orchards a letter, asking for proof of testing of their cider every month. That should probably come after Mr. Olander's inspection determines which septic system is useless and what impact that would have on their continued production of cider. Ms. Smith offered to provide a template for an Order to do the testing, rather than using a letter. The Board agreed to use the Order Template.

There was some discussion of whether the ruined septic system is, in fact, an issue over which the BOH has jurisdiction. There was some indication that the system in question may fall under certain allowances for agricultural activities and may not fall under the BOH jurisdiction.

Richmond Congregational Church – In October the water had been tested and Inspection of the kitchen was fine.

The Richmond Consolidated School – Ms. Smith did an opening Inspection and another in November, both of which were fine.

Bartlett's Orchard – Ms. Smith will follow up on the issue of the public water supply.

The Inn at Kentmore – The gentleman running the kitchen has good experience with handling food and Ms. Smith indicated her comfort with what he is doing.

Balderdash Winery – Ms. Smith reported that they had asked her about the requirements for preparing food and she has sent them the necessary information. She noted that they do not have a wine license, which they will need if they are to be making wine on the premises. Ms. Smith will follow up with Balderdash.

Mr. Peter Cohen advised Ms. Smith that, in his capacity as part of the mentoring program at the school, he has attended lunches at the school for several months. He has noticed that people were serving or preparing food with bare hands. Ms. Smith noted that she has discussed that issue with the school kitchen in the past and will follow up with them again.

Ms. Smith advised the Board that Massachusetts has just adopted the 2013 Food Code and there will be different forms and opportunities for educating everyone about the changes. Mr. Olander noted that he had sent everyone on this food service list a notice of those training sessions.

HHAN Enhancements (DPH): Ms. Maron asked whether anyone on the Board was involved in the drills. Ms. Emilie Jarrett does respond to the announcement by hitting #1 to indicate receipt. Mr. Mark Pruhenski, the Town Administrator, is the person who oversees Richmond for this project and he follows up fully.

Monthly Activities and Annual Report – Ms. Jarrett provided copies of her monthly activities report and copies of her 2018 Annual Report (see attached). The schedule of her blood pressure clinics was basically on par with last year's numbers and she is continuing with programs as they are.

She also provided copies of the MAVEN report, which is the infectious and communicable disease report for 2018 for Richmond – status of cases reported, the number of cases and when they occurred. The mandate for Public Health is to make sure that the person contracting the disease is properly treated and that the community is being kept safe.

Ms. Jarrett will be attending a Department of Public Health conference on Hepatitis A. She will report back to the Board on what she learns.

Ms. Jarrett raised the issue of the new tick that has been discovered in several states in the U.S. that comes from Eastern China, Japan, Korea and the far East of Russia. So far, there have been no reported cases of illness caused by those ticks in the U.S., but the potential is there, and studies are being done.

Agent's Report (see attached):

Mr. Olander read the report and offered further explanation on some of the entries as needed.

Mr. Olander reported that he had met with Recap Solutions at the MHOA meeting and now has 50 copies of a "Well Owner's Guide" and 50 copies of a Pamphlet from them. The Guide contains very good information for any well owner and there was a discussion of how copies should be distributed. Mr. Cohen asked for a copy that he could give to the Library.

Next Meeting – February 5, 2019 at 5:00 PM

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Tony Segal moved that the meeting be adjourned. He was seconded by Mr. Fred Schubert and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.