

RICHMOND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Tuesday May 7, 2019 – 5:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road

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

ABSENT: Mr. Fred Schubert

GUESTS: Ms. Emilie Jarrett, RN, Community Health Assn.; Ms. Claudia Ryan; Ms. Jayne Smith, Food Inspector

Approval of the Minutes of the April 2, 2019 Meeting: Mr. Peter Cohen moved that the minutes be approved as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andrew Fisher and passed via unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Girls & Boys Club Presentation: Ms. Jayne Smith reported that she had spoken to Mr. Joe McGovern and he is confident that there will be no deductions on inspection. They have worked hard throughout the winter to prepare for the upcoming season. Ms. Smith referred to the letter she composed to certify that Camp Russell is authorized by the Richmond Board of Health to receive a license to operate a recreational camp for children in the town of Richmond for the summer of 2019 without prior inspection. This will allow the camp to provide scholarships to underprivileged children. The letter includes all the steps that the camp had to take to make this certification possible (see attached).

Ms. Smith asked the Board to consider signing the letter. After some discussion of the spray element in the wading pool it was decided to let the original waiver stand that the Board had given the camp to allow the water feature to remain in the wading pool.

Mr. Anthony Segal signed the letter as Chair of the Board of Health.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Annual Bill: This is the contract with the BRPC for Ms. Jayne Smith's services for FY2020. (see attached) Mr. Segal will forward the bill to the Town Administrator, Mr. Mark Pruhenski for payment.

Letter from Mr. Ken Kelly re the Richmond Pond Assn.: There was a discussion of the system for closing the Town's beaches in the event of two successive water tests showing high levels of e-coli. Mr. Fisher recalled that at a previous meeting of the Board, Mr. Fred Schubert volunteered to create an algorithm to solidify the correct process. Mr. Segal will ask Mr. Schubert if that work has been done.

NEW BUSINESS

MEMA Local Trainings for WebEOC in June: (see attached): Mr. Segal suggested that members of the Board attempt to attend one of those classes.

MAHB, BRPC, Temporary Food Trainings (See attached): That event was held on this day in Boston.

Air B&B's with Swimming Pools for the use of their guests: That would bring the property under the aegis of the Board of Health. Ms. Smith noted that there are several stringent requirements for the semi-public use of a pool that includes regular testing of the water, testing of the drains to assess their safety, etc. Ms. Smith was looking for a more reasonable level of inspections and testing that would protect the public without causing undue hardship on the part of the owners. Ms. Smith has contacted the State Board of Health to find out who would be the right person to discuss this with and she noted that the subject will be under discussion at the Fall BOHA dinner.

It was decided that a list of standards for the maintenance of a semi-public pool should be drafted to be used as a guideline for inspections of pools done in response to a request for a pool permit from a rental business. The issue in general was tabled as under review, awaiting further direction from the State.

HMCC Upcoming Spring Events (See attached): The notice of the Emergency Plans training will be forwarded to the Fire Chief, Steve Traver.

Zoning Board of Appeals Permits: Mr. Edward L. Hoe, Jr. & Ms. Lisa A. Bouchard seeking permitting for a short-term room rental business. Ms. Smith suggested that the Board ask that all safety and fire regulations have been complied with and that the septic system is adequate for the number of bedrooms for every new application for a permit.

Mr. Peter Cohen moved that all new Air B&B's be tested for Title V, water quality and other health issues by the Health Agent before being issued a permit to operate as a rental unit. Discussion: Mr. Olander pointed out that the existence of extra bedrooms than the septic system was originally designed to handle, does not constitute an automatic failure of a title V inspection. The Board could specify in the permitting process that the number of bedrooms must not exceed the capacity of the existing septic system. A change in use triggers a Title V inspection. Mr. Andy Fisher seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous consent.

Mr. and Mrs. John Scorpa seeking a permit for the construction of an enclosed porch and side deck. This permit is not within the purview of the Board of Health and the Board, therefore, has no comment.

BRPC Dinner on June 5th: The discussion will be on tiny houses. None of the members indicated an interest in attending.

DPH Report on Measles Cases: 60 suspected cases of measles investigated in Massachusetts – one confirmed this year. Ms. Jarrett suggested that this notice be published in the Richmond Record to alert the community about the growing danger of exposure to measles.

Ms. Jarrett reported that the incidence of Hepatitis A cases has decreased significantly in Boston as a result of the push to vaccinate and educate the public. However, now that the weather is warming, it will be essential to continue with the program to get people vaccinated as there will be more people sleeping outside.

Agent's Report (See attached): Mr. Olander expanded on and explained the items included in his report.

Next Meeting – Tuesday June 4, 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. Segal and passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.