

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday September 14, 2022 – 5:00 PM

Richmond Town Hall – 1529 State Road, Richmond, MA 01254

PRESENT: Andy Fisher, Louise Maron; Peter Cohen; Tony Segal, Chair; Laurence Cohen; Valerie Bird, Agent.

Approval of the Minutes of the August Meeting: Peter moved to approve the minutes as read. He was seconded by Andy and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Beach: Tony reported that the test results he has been receiving from the Richmond Pond have been excellent. The beach is officially closed in that there are no lifeguards on duty and the testing will be suspended until next season.

Mosquito Testing Report: The State has reported finding four or five incidences of mosquitos showing West Nile Virus infection. No evidence of EEE, chikungunya or dengue disease has shown up in their testing.

Alliance Nurses Attendance at Meetings: The question was raised as to whether there would be a representative from the nursing department of the Alliance at these meetings now that Community Health is no longer in business. Andy will contact Laura Kittross, Public Health Program Manager, to ask that a representative attend these meetings or if that is not workable, that an email be sent concerning the number of cases of communicable diseases reported in Berkshire County that month.

Rick Bell's Concern: Peter advised the Board that Rick Bell complained that the grounds around a private residence were unsightly. This is not a concern of the Board of Health.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Report: Andy noted that he will attend the September 19, 2022 meeting dealing with creating a "capacity assessment of local boards of health related to the Public Health Excellence grant." He will bring back the information from that meeting to the next meeting of the Board of Health. He also noted that he had been advised that Richmond's assessment will be completed by the Alliance as Richmond does not have the ability to do that work. (See email from Laura Kittross, attached)

Community Health Report: As the Community Health program is now defunct, there will be no further reports from them. It is hoped that such information will be forthcoming from the Alliance in future.

Alliance Agent Report: Valerie expanded on each of the listed items in the July and August Reports (attached here)

Valerie announced that the Richmond Board of Health has a new Food Safety Agent, Ned Savinski. He has recently inspected the cafeteria at the Richmond School and found that the only problem was the lack of a Safe Serve person on staff.

Val advised the Board of a situation at a building site on Swamp Road. The family (Father, Mother, Child) are living in a trailer on the site during construction. They have asked for permission to connect to the septic tank that is already on site so that it will function as a “tight tank” until the septic system is completed along with the building. Andy moved to approve the connection to the septic tank under the conditions cited. He was seconded by Laury and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: After some discussion, it was decided that the next meeting of the Board of Health will take place on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

There being no further business before the Board, Andy moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM. He was seconded by Laury and the motion passed by unanimous vote.