

## **BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**Tuesday November 5, 2019 – 5:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Rd.**

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

**ABSENT:** Mr. John Olander, Agent

**GUEST:** Ms. Claudia Ryan; Ms. Jayne Smith, Agent; Ms. Emilie Jarrett, R.N., Community Health Assn.

Mr. Schubert called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Sanitation Line Item in BOH Budget:** Mr. Fisher reported on his conversation with Ms. Danielle Fillio, the Town Administrator, in which he advised her that the consensus of the Board of Health was that the Board would like to have that line item removed from the BOH budget. He noted that the Board was willing to accept that the line item must remain in their budget but then felt that it should have some representation in the process of negotiating the terms of the bid proposal that goes out to potential vendors before it goes out. They would like to have a seat at the table during interviews of the sanitation organizations who submit bids. Mr. Fisher made it clear that the Board was not attempting to cause any impediment to the process, but that it felt that if the line item is in its budget the Board is responsible for the performance of the sanitation process and will be the body to complain to if that performance falls below standard. Mr. Fisher reported that Ms. Fillio agreed that the Board's request was reasonable, and she would take it under advisement. The next step would come from Ms. Fillio. Ms. Claudia Ryan noted that in her reading of the Town's Bylaws, she found that the Board of Health is responsible for sanitation, recycling and trash removal. Therefore, in order to remove that line item from the Board's budget, a full Town vote would be required to change the bylaw.

**Review and Approval of the Minutes of the October 3, 2019 Meeting:** Mr. Andrew Fisher moved that the minutes be approved as read. Mr. Peter Cohen seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous consent.

**Hilltop Orchard Letter:** Ms. Jayne Smith distributed copies of the letter she had drafted to Hilltop Orchard (See attached) concerning the requirements to maintain either a Farm Labor Camp for two or more workers or a single worker living on the premises. Ms. Smith reported that the owner, Mr. John Vittori, has advised that the trailer that was used for housing has been removed and that no one is now living on the premises. The workers who had occupied that trailer for years are not returning.

Ms. Smith explained the requirements for both of those situations as they were outlined in the letter. There was some discussion about the text of the letter that resulted in a minor change, which Ms. Smith agreed to make. Mr. Schubert moved that the Board authorize Ms. Smith to

send the letter, as revised, to Hilltop Orchard. Mr. Peter Cohen seconded the motion, which was carried by unanimous consent.

**Signs for Beach Closing:** Mr. Andy Fisher spoke to Mr. Peter Beckwith about ordering these signs. Mr. Beckwith asked for a sample of exactly what the Board wished the signs to say. A sample sign was obtained from the Town of Becket that met with the Board's approval (see attached). Ms. Smith noted that the sign used by the Town of Becket meets the State's two requirements: the closing of the beach due to elevated levels of contamination in the water and an indication of when the pond is monitored and when it is not. A discussion ensued of how the fact that the beach is never actually closed, but that it is only monitored at certain times affected the appropriateness of this sample text. Mr. Schubert asked whether there was a specific text for the sign that will notify the public that the beach is closed due to contamination of the water. Ms. Smith found an example on the internet that seemed to provide the appropriate information. She will send a copy of that sign to members of the Board for the next meeting.

**Algorithm for Beach Testing and Closing:** Mr. Schubert reported that he has not done anything further with the algorithm. It still has some unclear information as to who does what and who the alternates are. He will work on that. Mr. Fisher noted that he has provided the water testing facility with a list of the email addresses of all the members of the Board of Health. He requested that, when testing of the water at Richmond Pond is resumed, results will be copied to everyone on that list for informational purposes. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Segal will act on that information and they will initiate the order to close the beach, unless they happen both to be away. In that case, the information will be in the hands of other Board members who could stand in for them and close the beach.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**BCBOHA Dinner – October 24, 2019:** There was no discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual MAHB Certificate Program-November 2, 2019 – Marlborough:** No one had attended the program.

**Chapter 12A Fines: (See Attached)** Mr. Schubert brought this issue to the Board as it was created by the State and forwarded to local Boards of Health by the County Board of Health for information. The Board has the option to adopt these regulations. Mr. Schubert asked that the regulations be reviewed and brought back to the next meeting for discussion and possible adoption. Discussion raised the issue that this Board has no enforcement capability in the existing bylaws and something like these regulations are needed. It was suggested that, if these regulations are adopted, the Town be notified of that.

**Blueprint for Public Health Excellence:** The multi-page, State-level document was not available for this meeting. It was tabled to the next meeting and Mr. Schubert will email it to the Board members for their review.

**Vaping Product Ban Notice:** Mr. Schubert provided copies of a notice issued by the Town of Adams to determine if the Board wished to post a similar notice. (see attached) A discussion of the issue resulted in a consensus that, as an appeal is now before the courts and there is no one in Richmond selling these products, no action was required of the Board at this time.

**Council on Aging Talk – Errors and Fraud in Medicare:** The talk will take place on Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon at the Parish Hall of St. Patrick’s Church in West Stockbridge.

**Agreement with Berkshire Public Health Alliance – Review of Information Reported by MAVEN: (See Attached)** Ms. Jarrett advised the Board that the agreement was to allow the Alliance to monitor, through MAVEN, reportable, communicable and dangerous diseases in Berkshire County. The Alliance will monitor only and take no action nor provide any services. With the Board’s approval, Mr. Schubert will execute the agreement and return it to the Alliance.

**Series of Courses at Boston University - Foundations for Local Public Health: (See attached)** Announcement of availability. Ms. Smith and Ms. Jarrett both said they had taken the course and found it extremely valuable and recommended it to the Board. Mr. Schubert noted that if anyone on the Board wished to sign up for the course, the fee would be covered by the Board of Health budget.

**Current News and Events:** Mr. Schubert reported that EverSource issued a notice of the power outage that occurred on October 16<sup>th</sup> in a timely manner.

**Community Health Report:** Ms. Emilie Jarrett reported that the Flu Clinic has completed its work and was very successful. There was only one case of suspected Lyme disease in the Town of Richmond in October.

Ms. Maron asked Ms. Jarrett about advice she had been given as a corneal transplant patient that the shingles or flu vaccines are problematic for patients who should not have their immune system enhanced to avoid rejection. Ms. Jarrett suggested that issues of that kind should be a discussion between the patient and his/her doctor.

**Health Agent Report: (See attached)** Mr. Olander was not present to elaborate on the listing provided in his written report.

**Alliance Activity Report:** Ms. Smith advised the Board that the Alliance issues a quarterly Activity Report, though there is no evidence that the Board received the latest one issued in October. She will follow up to get that report to the Board. That report is all-inclusive of the activities in Richmond, whereas Mr. Olander’s report is a list of those items he was personally involved in. Ms. Ryan will create a spreadsheet to track all perc tests and Title V’s that occur in

Richmond, which will provide the Board with a better understanding of the whole of what occurs in Town. Ms. Ryan, Ms. Smith and Mr. Olander are working on setting up a Board of Health office in Town Hall and Ms. Ryan is being trained to do the administrative work required to keep projects moving efficiently.

There was a discussion of Ms. Smith's anticipated leaving. Her last day will be December 13, 2019. Between that date and January 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be no agent from the Alliance available to Richmond. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, the replacement for Ms. Smith is expected to have been hired and trained and available to the Board. Ms. Smith advised the Board that it would be helpful if, after she leaves, the Board will give Ms. Ryan the authority to issue and sign permits. Mr. Schubert said that, as Chair of the Board, he would be available to sign permits if Mr. Olander is not.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday December 3, 2019 – 5:00 PM.

Ms. Smith requested that a discussion of whether the Board would be interested in taking advantage of the on-line permitting program being used in other towns be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Schubert will add that to the agenda.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM