

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
May 7, 2018

PRESENT: Gary Fine (Acting Chair), Gail McSweeney, Matthew Newman (Member) and Sheila Landy (Secretary).

5:00 MR. FINE OPENED THE MEETING AND READ THE STATEMENT REGARDING AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS

8 To Educate – Due to the Town Meeting tomorrow night, Mr. Fine was not able to schedule a guest.

HEALTH AGENT'S REPORT

The Secretary gave the Health Agent's Report.

Pembroke Hospital - The Agent attended an inspection at Pembroke Hospital of the failed BioClear Tower with the DEP and the manufacturer of the Tower. The BioClear Towers are half buried in the ground with a plastic cover. They think it shattered due to the bitter cold and the warm effluent being processed.

Birch Street condemnation was moved to next week by the homeowner.

The Fieldhouse – Complaints continue to come in but most are about having to leave the building to use the restrooms. Poirier is scheduled to meet with the Planning Board next week regarding the site plan.

Columbia Road – There is a partial septic failure at 15 Columbia Road. There are two fields at this location but only one in use at a time. Which field in operation depends on the position of the two bull run valves. Every three or four months, the bull run valves are turned to activate the other field and rest the current field. The contract to do this is with Wind River Environmental. One field is in failure. Merrill Engineering designed the field before and has been contacted to develop a new system.

Office Activity – Foot traffic is up. Permits for pools are being pulled. Bank owned properties are starting to move.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow up Winter Storm Riley

Chair Fine wanted a final update of Winter Storm Riley. As the Agent was not in attendance, he moved on the second follow up documentation item.

Follow up Documentation

Fine gave McSweeney a copy of a letter sent by Fine to McSweeney on March 20, 2018 requesting the information Mr. Chilcott asked for at the March 12, 2018 Meeting. McSweeney handed Mr. Fine copy of "Manual of Laws and Regulations Relating to Boards of Health" and referred him to page 4, General Organization and Authority. She also handed two copies to Sheila Landy (one for Mr. Thorne). She also handed out a copy of 105 CMR: Department of Public Health with Section 400.100: Inspections highlighted. Ms. McSweeney is concerned that if Town Meeting passes the Town Manager article, the Board of Health will be abolished.

UPCOMING ISSUES

Mr. Fine stated Town Meeting is tomorrow evening. Article 25, submitted by Robert DeMarzo, concerns livestock fees. The Secretary told the Board the Health Agent heard from the Commonwealth of MA. Esther Wegman, Program Coordinator, Animal Health, stated annual inspection of chickens is mandatory.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of implementing a maximum number of livestock allowed on parcels less than 1.0 acre.

McSweeney asked to table the discussion until after Town Meeting. Fine declined.

Discussion ensued

- Should we allow livestock in the front yard of a home?
- What about setbacks? Same as the building department requires of structures?
- 3+ acres is the minimum for farm status.
- Should the Board develop a formula? Or just go with a number?

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Newman asked what was the Board trying to accomplish? Fine stated the Board wants to set policy and update livestock regulations. Fine asked for state guidelines regarding minimum space for livestock.

At 5:45, Newman made a motion to adjourn. McSweeney seconded and all were in favor.

Matthew Newman
Chair