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**BOARD OF HEALTH**

TOWN HALL – 1 MAIN STREET – AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432 – (978) 772-8220 Ext 145

**Minutes of September 12, 2022 - Ayer Board of Health Meeting**

Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting room, Ayer Town Hall

Meeting was recorded and broadcast by APAC

**Members Present:** Stephen Slarsky, Chair; Patricia Peters; Pam Papineau

**Also Present:** Bridgette Braley, Health Agent, Nashoba Boards of Health; Samantha Benoit, Administrative Coordinator

**Stephen Slarsky called the meeting to order at 5:30pm**

The Board decided against entering Executive Session since there is no new information.

**Public Input:**

There was no one present for public input.

**Old Business:**

S. Slarsky and B. Braley reported on the the Westford Rd. noise complaint.

It was noted that no excessive noise can be detected, no trucks have been idling. S. Slarsky did speak with Nick Green of Bake n' Joy. There operation has not changed recently, but he will put out signs to remind the trucks not to idle.

P. Papineau was curious about the disconnect between the complaint letter received and what has been observed. Maybe there is something else in the area making noise.

There have been no other noise complaints from the area.

B. Braley had no new COVID-19 updates.

S. Slarsky noted that Ayer is below the state and county average for positive cases.

Tests are still available at various locations around town.

**New Business:**

S. Slarsky would like to invite PACE (People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment) to Board of Health meetings.

P. Papineau noted PACE regularly attended prior to COVID.

S. Benoit will contact PACE and invite them to the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

S. Slarsky contacted B. Braley the previous week with concerns about a possible algae bloom in Sandy Pond. B. Braley took samples from Sandy Pond, and the state confirmed that there was an algae bloom. This algae bloom is toxic to humans, and fatal to animals.

S. Slarsky noted that this algae bloom is a natural occurrence, the pond is very low and not draining into Flannigan's Pond properly. The recent heat and stagnation are also contributing factors.

B. Braley will test the pond weekly, but most likely the algae bloom will not clear up until it gets colder out. Signs warning the public have been posted around Sandy Pond, as well as the Town's Website and Social Media. A reverse 911 call was also sent out.

S. Slarsky contacted everyone around Sandy Pond with dogs to keep their pets away from the water.  
B. Braley spoke with Jeff Thomas, Parks Director, the beach is still open for sports, but swimming is prohibited.

Flannagan's Ponds has not been affected.

B. Braley noted the state may not take any more samples since it is outside of swimming season.

The board received a written complaint about rodents at 83 Pleasant St.

S. Slarsky contacted Julie Thomas, Animal Control Officer, to investigate the source of the rodents.

There is an abandoned house in the area that may be the source.

B. Braley explained the biggest cause of rats is chickens, and bird feeders. Construction, garbage, and the environment can also cause and increase in rodents.

S. Benoit will check for people who may own chickens in the area.

**Nashoba Update:**

B. Braley inspected a house on Hatch St. and called a representative of the landlord.

A second notice was sent to a house on Hedgeway in regard to the temporary housing on their property.

Nearly all restaurants participating in the Newton St. Festival have applied for their Temporary Food Service Licenses.

**A motion was made by P. Papineau to accept the August 29, 2022, Minutes. Seconded by P. Peters.  
Motion Passes (3-0)**

**Administrative Matters:**

There was general discussion about the Call Log being kept by S. Benoit at the Board of Health office.

B. Braley is still collecting information on past Tobacco violations.

The Board was asked to resign the Participating Municipality Agreement from the Municipal Tobacco and Public Health Programs. Three towns wish to rejoin so every participating town must resign the agreement.

**P. Papineau made a motion to reaffirm the Town of Ayer's participation in the Municipal Tobacco and Public Health Programs. Seconded by P. Peters.**

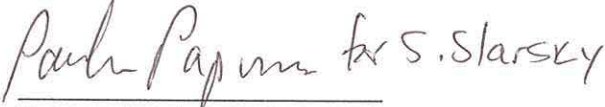
**Motion Passes (3-0)**

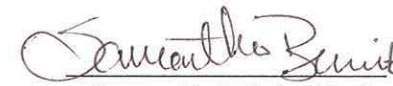
The Board was presented with a consent order from Nasoya Foods, regarding a fine.

**P. Papineau made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by P. Peters.**

**Motion Passed (3-0)**

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:07pm**

  
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Stephen Slarsky, Chair

  
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Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Benoit, Administrative Coordinator