

TOWN OF AYER  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

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

**Minutes of October 17, 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**

**Motion was made by P. Papineau to enter Executive Session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, Sec. 21A Exemption #3. Seconded by P. Peters.**

**Motion Passed (3-0)**

**The Board enter executive session at 5:32pm.**

**Open session reconvened at 5:42pm.**

**Public Input:**

There was no one present for public input.

**Old Business:**

B. Braley informed the Board that the town of Ayer is below both the county and state average for COVID cases. Tests are still available at multiple locations within the town.

Regarding the Sandy Pond Algae bloom B. Braley has been regularly taking samples. The pond is currently at 150 colonies per mil. down from 1,000,000 per mil. Once the film on the pond clears the state will be contacted and the ban will be lifted. Some parts of the pond are clearer than others.

**Nashoba Update:**

B. Braley investigated a complaint about the McDonalds and found that the facility needed some care and will follow-up with another inspection.

She also recently inspected Karyn's Kitchen and the new concessions stand at the High School.

Local restaurants have been receiving their renewed Food Permits for 2023.

S. Slarsky asked that the Board be emailed a list of Food Permits renewals as they come in.

B. Braley agreed to this in the future.

B. Braley listed all restaurants that have applied for renewals, all have been accepted.

B. Braley also inspected a house at 23 Shirley St. the homeowner will not rent the house until all issues have been addressed.

## **New Business:**

The Animal Inspector, Julie Thomas, will have an update for the Board at the next meeting. A letter will be sent to a resident, and once it has been sent the Board will be updated.

S. Slarsky asked Samantha Benoit to send a letter to the Planning Board asking for an update in regard to a request of information on the sewer around the proposed Stratton Hill development. This letter is to be sent to the Town Planner, the Town Manager, and the DPW.

## **Call Log:**

There have been numerous calls regarding overflowing dumpsters. Dumpsters located at 10 E. Main St. and 11 Cambridge St. are the biggest concern. Both have been emptied at the time of this meeting.

**A motion was made by P. Peters to accept the September 26, 2022, Minutes as amended. Seconded by P. Papineau.**

**Motion Passes (3-0)**

The meeting turned over to Laurie Nehring, Julie Corzenwit, and Laurel Schaidler, for a presentation on the ongoing study being performed by PACE (People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment).

L. Nehring led the presentation. The study that is being conducted is concerned with the health effects of PFAS in drinking water. This study is focused on residents of Ayer and Hyannis. Ayer discovered the PFAS early on, and as such have been able to take steps to improve the drinking water. Wells found at Spectacle Pond and Grove Pond are not fully filtered for PFAS.

S. Slarsky also noted that PFAS are found in many other things, including Teflon, and children's flame-retardant clothing.

T. Peters asked if anyone is excluded from the study based on health conditions.

L. Schaidler says no one is excluded based on health condition, they are looking for a variety of health levels. PFAS are linked to many different health conditions, and this study should help to provide guidance for different health screenings.

T. Peters asked if the testing is different from the testing done at a yearly physical.

L. Nehring says that some the testing is the same, such as Cholesterol, but some are beyond that and are not covered by most insurance.

S. Slarsky asked how many different PFAS are they testing.

L. Schaidler says they are looking at twelve different chemicals, including some chemicals that are no longer used but stay in the blood stream.

L. Nehring noted that Firefighters and Military personnel are excluded from testing due to the chemicals found in their equipment.

L. Nehring stated that PACE is looking for community support. Hyannis is struggling to collect enough samples. PACE has a new office located at Nashoba Valley Medical Center, and they are waiting for all the equipment needed to collect samples to arrive. While they wait, they would like to get as many volunteers for testing as possible.

The Board offered several suggestions for places to advertise this study, including sending notices out with the water bills, advertising in the Hospitals waiting room, and the transfer station. As well as setting up informational table at local business such as Shop n' Save.

PACE is also looking for former residents.

S. Slarsky suggested contacting Clear Path on Devens.

**Administrative Matters:**

A permit for Prime Disposal, LLC, a new trash hauler operating in town, was reviewed, and signed.

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

**Motion Passed (3-0)**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:04pm**

  
Stephen Slarsky, *Chair*  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Benoit, *Administrative Coordinator*