



Town of Ayer

## BOARD OF HEALTH

Town Hall – 1 Main Street – Ayer, MA 01432 – 978-772-8820 ext. 145

### Minutes of May 8, 2023 - 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; Pamela Papineau

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

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

#### Public Input:

Brain Perwak, 108 Pleasant St., acting as a representative of the neighbors of 17 Taft St. read a letter explaining his and his neighbors' concerns about said property. The letter details the trash, food waste, and odors coming from 17 Taft St. He explained that in the past there has been open communication with the owner, Ruth Maxant-Schulz, but that has not been the case in recent years. The neighbors are looking for an explanation of the BOH regulations concerning the keeping of livestock and if the property is currently in compliance.

#### Old Business:

Brian Burke, acting as Ruth Maxant-Schulz's attorney, Ruth Maxant-Schulz, 17 Taft St., and Janelle Austin, representing Town Council, spoke with the Board regarding the issue of no permit for the Keeping of Animal and Fowl being issued to 17 Taft St.

B. Burke spoke to the history of the property, and some health issues that R. Maxant-Schulz had recently experienced. B. Burke explained that R. Maxant-Schulz is distrustful of the process and believes this may be an effort to shut down the last farm in town. However, R. Maxant-Schulz is willing to participate in the permitting process and hopes that any concerns that arise will be addressed prior to a permit being denied.

S. Slarsky noted that the permit will be processed the same as any other permitted application submitted. He also reiterated that the BOH does not regulate farms, and that the Board's main concern is public health.

B. Braley also noted that this is a public health issue.

P. Papineau asked if a permit application will be submitted.

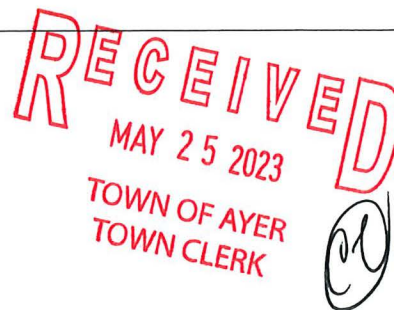
B. Burke confirmed that a permit application will be submitted.

P. Peters asked for a timeframe in which the permit application will be submitted.

S. Slarsky noted that the deadline for applications is May 31<sup>st</sup> and asked if the permit could be submitted by the next meeting of the BOH.

B. Burke stated that the application would be submitted by the end of the month but not necessarily by the next meeting.

J. Austin stated that she would like to continue to correspond with B. Burke on this issue and felt that their earlier conversation had been productive.



S. Slarsky called a short recess at 5:55pm  
Recess ended at 6:05pm

S. Slarsky had an update on the Harm Reduction Program. The Nashoba Associated Boards of Health received a letter stating there are no vans available and therefore no timeframe for the start of the program. The Ayer Library will be voting to host the van on their property later in the week.

S. Slarsky stated that given the cyanobacteria outbreak at Sandy Pond last year that the pond should be tested prior to the beach opening for the year.

**Motion:** P. Papineau made a motion to have the water at Sandy Pond tested prior to the beach opening for the year.

Seconded: P. Peters

**Motion Passes (3-0)**

**New Business:**

B. Braley presented a new MOU for the Emergency Dispensing Site for the Board to sign. This was to renew the already existing agreement.

**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to sign the MOU for the Emergency Dispensing Site.

Seconded: P. Papineau

**Motion Passes (3-0)**

S. Slarsky mentioned that an unlicensed Food Truck was looking to do business in Ayer, but the business owner was who invited the Food Truck asked them to not come.

**Nashoba Update:**

B. Braley presented the most recent inspection reports for Nashoba Park, Taco Bell, Shop 'n Save, and Pauline's Variety.

A food permits were issued to the Grateful Dog and the John's La Dip.

**Call Log:**

There was discussion about a complaint at Apple Valley regarding ants.

**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 10, 2023 as amended.

Seconded: P. Papineau

**Motion Passes (3-0)**

**Administrative Matters:**

S. Benoit presented a new tobacco permit application for Ray's Smoke Shop.

**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to issue a tobacco permit for Ray's Smoke Shop.

Seconded: P. Papineau

**Motion Passes (3-0)**

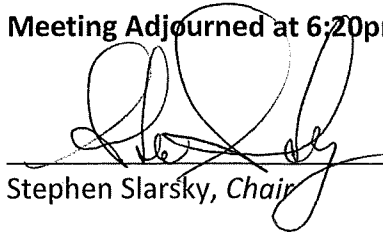
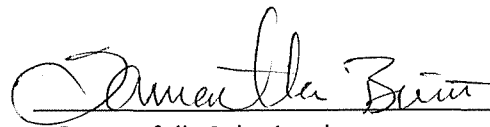
S. Benoit presented the permit applications for the Keeping of Animal and Fowl for the following addresses. 33 Groton Shirley Rd., 32 Calvin St., 7 Union St., 15 Oak Ridge Dr., 4 Moore Dr., 7 Harvard Rd., 47 Highland Ave., 18 Wright Rd., and 72 Washington St. All have been issued permits in the past.

**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to issue all Keeping of Animal and Fowl Permits as presented.

Seconded: P. Papineau  
**Motion Passes (3-0)**

**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Seconded: P. Papineau  
**Motion Passes (3-0)**

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:20pm.**

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