



Town of Ayer

## BOARD OF HEALTH

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

### Minutes of January 8, 2024 - 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:** Pamela Papineau – Chair; Patricia Peters

**Absent:** Stephen Slarsky

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

**Pamela Papineau called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.**

#### Public Input:

Members of the public were present but did not comment.

#### Old Business:

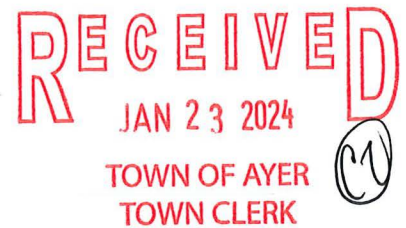
The Keeping of Animal and Fowl Permit application for 3 Union Street was submitted but incomplete. The applicants were contacted about the missing materials but have yet to respond. The information was to be sent to the Animal Control Officer.

The owners of 32 Washington Street have not responded to any communications from the Board of Health. B. Braley will email the homeowner and S. Benoit will have a letter delivered by the constable.

The Board of Health received an update on the Harm Reduction Program. Jenna Montgomery from the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health has emailed the Board, stating an organization from Fitchburg is willing to host the program.

P. Papineau read into the minutes the email sent.

*It was great speaking with you earlier! Per our phone discussion I'm reaching out with a little more information on a recent development regarding harm reduction services for the town of Ayer. The Community Health Team at Nashoba has been building a working relationship with the area's federally qualified community health center (Community Health Connections, aka CHC, <https://chcfhc.org/>) for the past several months. In recent conversations, CHC has expressed interest in offering mobile harm reduction services for Ayer- they've been seeking avenues to provide more direct and accessible outreach in towns in their service area that are a bit more removed from Fitchburg/Leominster/Gardner, where their services are based. They have spoken with BIDLS as well as BSAS and have everything they would need to initiate a program- van, staff, licenses, DPH funding, etc. They would very reasonably want to start small and ramp up based on need and engagement; they'd begin with a van staffed by community health*



workers, case managers, and recovery coaches providing harm reduction supplies and services, and would then add billable services/providers if utilization warrants.

*When I last spoke to the Board about mobile harm reduction, given the disappointment we faced with JRI's capacity issues last year we agreed we'd table further discussions unless a more promising prospect came along. This is the first time we've had an agency offer to partner on this project other than JRI, so I wanted to put it on the Board's radar before further conversation.*

*Please let me know if this is something the Board is interested in discussing further and we can talk about next steps!*

A location for the van will still need to be determined but there had been some interest from the Library previously.

#### **New Business:**

An email was sent to the Board of Health detailing the Ayer Mental Health Recovery Court initiative at the Court House in town. This is a special session of the Ayer District Court for those with serious mental health issues and substance abuse issues.

#### **Discussion:**

The Board discussed updating and reviewing their regulations.

The Regulations for Wood Burning Boilers are to put on the agenda for the next meeting. It has been determined that the Town no longer needs to have these regulations.

The Body Art Regulations are also to be discussed at the next meeting.

B. Braley will continue to research the regulations for private wells and floors drains.

#### **Nashoba Update:**

B. Braley gave an update from the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. All businesses in town have renewed their food permits.

#### **Call Log:**

No discussion on the call log.

**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to accept the Minutes of December 11, 2023.

Seconded: P. Papineau

**Motion Passes (2-0)**

#### **Administrative Matters:**

S. Benoit presented the Solid Waste Hauler Permits received in the last month by the Board of Health office.

**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to accept and issue Solid Waste Hauler Permits to Win Waste of Northern New England, Inc.

Seconded: P. Papineau

**Motion Passes (2-0)**

S. Benoit presented the Retail Sales of Tobacco Permits received in the last month by the Board of Health office. Of the three permits submitted two have outstanding Tobacco Violations, the Family Dollar and The Vinyard. Neither permit will be renewed until the violations have been settled. Pauline's Variety also received a Tobacco Violation and has requested a hearing in February.

**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to accept and issue the Retail Sales of Tobacco Permits to Traffic Circle Liquors (Jack O'Lantern).

Seconded: P. Papineau

**Motion Passes (2-0)**

S. Benoit presented a new Keeping of Animal and Fowl Permit.

**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to issue a Keeping of Animal and Fowl Permit to 13 Mulberry Cir. for 6 chickens.

Seconded: P. Papineau

**Motion Passes (2-0)**


**Motion:** P. Peters made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded: P. Papineau

**Motion Passes (2-0)**

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:18pm.**

  
Pamela Papineau, Chair

  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Benoit, Administrative Coordinator