

TOWN OF AYER BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2017



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

Members present included: *Provisional Chair* Pamela Papineau, *Clerk* Mary Spinner, *Member* Patricia Peters, and *Administrative Assistant* Jane Morriss.

Also attending: Cara Wagner, 21 Groton Street, #1, Ayer; Ed and Sara Withee, 20 Calvin Street, Ayer

Meeting recorded by APAC

RE-AFFIRMATION OF THE RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD (CONTINUED FROM MAY 1 MEETING):

At the May 1 meeting, P. Papineau was nominated and elected by unanimous vote to serve as the Board Chair. After the meeting, she realized that she had neglected to get sworn-in by the Town Clerk. By the May 15 meeting, she had been duly sworn in by the Clerk. M. Spinner motioned to nominate P. Papineau to serve as Chair, and P. Peters 2nd. The Board voted unanimously to re-affirm her election to serve as its Chair. **3/0A**

NABOH MATERIAL (B. BRALEY):

Nasoya: B. Braley's Order to Correct was summarized and discussed. The recent odor problem seems to be under control. Nasoya is meeting with DPW Superintendent M. Wetzel on Friday, May 19, to negotiate purchasing more water from the town. The Board agreed that Nasoya needs to be held accountable. P. Papineau will be following up with the DPW to see what transpired at the meeting, and to make certain that the problem is being addressed adequately.

A **septic permit** for an existing four-bedroom dwelling at 11 Groton-Shirley Road was signed by the members.

Bligh Street: There have been complaints of trash and hording at a bank-owned house that may be in the process of being sold. P. Papineau will follow up with its status and the issue will be put on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

QUARTERLY RAB MEETING REPORT (P. PAPINEAU):

Shepley's Hill Landfill and the Moore Airfield were the main focus of the meeting. After several years of soil treatment, residual levels of long-chain hydrocarbon molecules from parachute cleaning operations have been drastically reduced, but they were recently found at some of the monitoring sites to the north of the airfield. Monitoring and treatment efforts will continue. Recent water sampling performed by the Army Corps. of Engineers has detected PFOA and PFOS residuals in water samples taken from one of the Grove Pond wells at concentrations slightly higher than the current EPA health advisory limit of 70/ppt. These substances are present in many industrial, household and personal-use materials. Because the Ayer DPW blends water drawn from multiple wells prior to distribution, the level of PFOA and PFOS in water distributed to Ayer homes and businesses is below 70/ppt. The army inspected the Shepley's Hill landfill cover and performed routine maintenance which included repairing a few gas vents. Arsenic mitigation seems to be working, and has reduced the levels from 2500/ppb to 17.8/ppb. The group discussed recently reported sightings of archers using the grassy area on top of the landfill, where better signage of the area may be necessary. There was also a lively discussion about a pamphlet that the Army sent out last year to homeowners at addresses affected by the moratorium on well water. Several attendees felt the wording of the pamphlet was confusing or unclear. There was a general consensus that RAB members, including PACE, should be involved in any future communications, which must be written so a common people can understand what it is that they are reading. The next door-to-door survey is scheduled for 2019. Otherwise, the land use controls prohibiting wells in the affected area are effective. The Army and the EPA continue to have their differences but are working together on the interpretation of Devens contamination data. The next RAB meeting has not yet been scheduled, but is expected in September.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FOR May 1, 2017:

M. Spinner made a motion to approve the minutes covering the May 1 meeting, and P. Peters 2nd. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes. **3/0 A**

NEW CANNABIS LAWS:

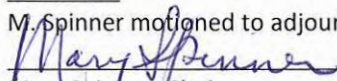
Although there was no discussion, the Board agreed to keep the topic as an agenda item into the near future, and to add a discussion about smoking age as well. There will be a public hearing at the State House to consider raising the smoking age to 21 age in Massachusetts.

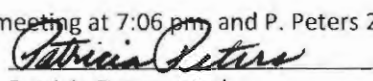
REVIEW OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 16:

M. Spinner made a motion to approve the minutes covering the March 16 meeting, and P. Peters 2nd. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes. **3/0 A**

ADJOURN:

M. Spinner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 pm and P. Peters 2nd. **3/0 A**


Mary Spinner, Chair


Patricia Peters, Clerk


Pamela Papineau, Member