



TOWN OF AYER
BOARD OF HEALTH

TOWN HALL – 1 MAIN STREET – AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432 – (978) 772-8213

Minutes of March 9, 2020 - Ayer Board of Health Meeting

Location: Great Hall, Second Floor, Ayer Town Hall

Meeting was recorded by APAC

Members Present: Pamela Papineau, Chairman, May Spinner, Clerk and Patricia Peters

Also Present: Heather Hampson, Administrative Coordinator

Chairman Papineau opened the meeting at 5:31 PM

Public Input

None

Review of Minutes from February 25, 2019

At 5:33 PM, P. Peters made a motion to accept the minutes of February 25, 2020 as presented. P. Papineau seconded. No discussion. Vote to approve. (2-1, M. Spinner abstained)

Discussion, Ruth Maxant-Schultz

Present: Ruth Maxant-Schultz and Attorney Brian E. Burke, Esq.

Ms. Ruth Maxant-Schultz stated she asked several questions in an email that she sent to the Board that she would like answered regarding why she needs an Animal Permit when she operates a farm.

P. Papineau informed Ms. Maxant-Schultz that the Board changed the regulations and as part of those changes' farms are no longer exempt from needing a permit. The Regulations are there to protect public health of all the residents in Ayer. People keeping animals on residential property can become a public health issue in terms of smell. The Regulations the Board has been kept with State Regulations. The application and permit ensure the food, animals and manure are kept keeping human health safe.

Ms. Maxant-Schultz stated that she felt that the Regulations were changed to single her out.

P. Papineau stated that, that was not the case the Board reviews all their regulations and updates them when needed.

Attorney Brian Burke asked if any additional inspections are required with the new regulations.

P. Papineau stated that there are not any additional inspections, there is one inspection done a year by the animal inspector which is then sent to the state.

Ms. Maxant-Schultz had a few questions regarding the inspector and their qualifications.

P. Papineau stated that she will not discuss the animal inspector at this meeting the question this evening is strictly if an animal permit is required, which it is.

Attorney Burke asked if there are any additional inspections need of the property if there is an animal permit.

P. Papineau stated that there is just one inspection conducted by the barn inspector, which she sends her reports to the state.

There a was a discussion regarding the inspections done by the barn/animal inspector.

P. Papineau stated again for Ms. Maxant-Schultz and her Attorney that with the new Board of Health Animal Regulations Ms. Maxant-Schultz is required to get a permit for keeping animals from the Board.

Ms. Maxant-Schultz stated that she had gotten permits in the past but had issues with the Board and the barn inspector.

P. Papineau apologize for past Boards and any issues she may have had with any barn inspectors but informed her that the current Board has no issue with her property and is only requesting that she apply for an animal permit. She went on the mention that the Board will not discuss the current barn inspector this evening.

P. Papineau asked Ms. Maxant-Schultz if she was going to send in her application for a permit for keeping animals.

Ms. Maxant-Schultz asked why the regulations changed to take out the exception for a farm.

P. Papineau stated again the Board changed the regulations to protect human health and suggested that Ms. Maxant-Schultz either submit the permit application as requested or request a waiver for exemption for the Board to consider.

Attorney Burke stated that he will talk with Ms. Maxant-Schultz about the 2 options.

PACE

P. Papineau stated that the PACE meeting was rescheduled to March 13th and is hoping to have Laurie present at the next meeting on March 23rd to give the Board on update on the silent springs study.

Review of Current Regulation

Aquifer Protection Regulation

P. Papineau stated that she has been talking to B. Braley regarding the aquifer protection regulation. B. Braley has been looking to see what other towns have done in the same situation and have yet to find any. A solution maybe to create a simple regulation with allowed uses and require the Board to review all applications.

NABOH Report (B. Braley):

There were no items from Nashoba Board of Health for the Board to review.

Administrative Matters:

Mail

P. Papineau went through the mail the Board received since the last meeting which included two insurance claims one on Forest Street the other on Bligh Street.

Miscellaneous

P. Papineau stated that the Board of Health website should be updated to include the most up to date information regarding the Corona Virus.

H. Hampson stated that she gets several emails a day but will work with the IT Department as well as with the Town Manager on how best to keep the website updated with the latest information.

Action Items for March 23, 2020 Meeting:

P. Papineau went through the action items for the next meeting which will include discussion with PACE, and update on the Corona Virus and a discussion on the Aquifer Regulations.

Adjourn:

M. Spinner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM, and P. Peters seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)



Pamela Papineau, *Chair*

Patricia Peters, *Member*

Mary Spinner, *Clerk*

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Hampson, *Administrative Coordinator*