



Town of Ayer

BOARD OF HEALTH

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

Minutes of September 11, 2023 - Ayer Board of Health Meeting

Location: 1st Floor Meeting room, Ayer Town Hall

Meeting was recorded and broadcast by APAC.

RECEIVED
OCT 31 2023

TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK

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 5:31pm.

Public Input:

Colby O'Brien of Making Opportunity Count (MOC) was invited to speak to the Board of Health regarding the emergency shelter being set up at the Nashoba Valley Inns and Suites.

S. Slarsky explained that the Town was recently informed that the local motel was to be used as a shelter for refugees and pregnant woman starting on September 16, 2023. He asked C. O'Brien to speak with the Board on this matter.

C. O'Brien explained that MOC was contracted to help maintain the property as part of the state of emergency that was recently declared. The motel has made an agreement with the State so that their property may be used as a shelter.

S. Slarsky asked what effects this will have on the motel/hotel license, and the BOH as the licensing authority.

C. O'Brien explained that the property will now have long term stays, and not function as a traditional motel. He was unable to answer how this would affect the BOH as the licensing authority.

S. Slarsky asked if a register of those staying there would be given to the Town.

C. O'Brien explained that there is a tracking system and a curfew in place, but the list of those staying there would not be shared with the Town.

P. Peters asked who oversees the curfew, is it the motel owners or MOC.

C. O'Brien explained the property is being leased by MOC and that there people are in charge of enforcing the curfew.

S. Slarsky asked how long the lease is for.

C. O'Brien noted that the lease is through July 2024 but could be extended.

C. O'Brien also noted that a catering service has been set up to provide for those who are residing at the motel.

S. Slarsky requested copies of the catering licenses.

B. Braley stated her concerns about the delivery of food during the winter, and asked what would happen if the weather made the roads unsafe. She also requested a copy of the catering license.

P. Peters has questions about the medical care being provided.

C. O'Brien explained that vaccinations will be provided, as will medical testing, and physicals for children. There will be a Health Care Coordinator available.

P. Peters asked about the time-frame in which they will be checked-out medically and if the children will be vaccinated before starting in the school system.

C. O'Brien noted that everyone was examined upon arrival, and the children will have to be vaccinated in order to attend school.

P. Papineau asked if there was going to be management on-site.

C. O'Brien explained that management is on-site 24/7, and there is also an on-call team available.

P. Papineau asked who would be sent to this shelter.

C. O'Brien noted that it is mostly families with young children and people in need of prenatal care.

P. Papineau asked what languages are spoken by those who will be living there and how that was being handled.

C. O'Brien stated that the majority of his staff is bi-lingual and that a translation service is available.

B. Braley asked if the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABOH) will be expected to help provide the immunizations. She also voiced her concerns about overcrowding in the rooms and means of egress.

C. O'Brien explained that the immunization will be handled by the state. The property will be inspected by the state as well. Beds and cribs will be provided and some of the furniture has been removed in order to make more room.

B. Braley asked about the increase in trash and the need for pest control.

C. O'Brien noted that there will be more frequent trash pick-up and the pest control measures have been increased.

S. Slarsky asked who should be contacted if the BOH received a complaint.

C. O'Brien stated that MOC or the State could be contacted.

B. Braley asked as to why no notice was given to the Town, and asked how services can be provided if the Town does not know this is happening.

C. O'Brien explained the State could not give notice until a contract was signed.

S. Slarsky reiterated that there would be no short-term rental at the Nashoba Valley Inns and Suites while it was being used as a shelter.

Board Reorganization:

S. Slarsky was open to accepting a nomination for Chair of the Board of Health.

Motion: S. Slarsky nominated P. Papineau as Chair.

Seconded: P. Peters

Motion Passes (3-0)

P. Papineau accepts.

S. Slarsky was open to accepting a nomination for Secretary of the Board of Health.

Motion: S. Slarsky nominated P. Peters as Secretary.

Seconded: P. Papineau

Motion Passes (3-0)

P. Peters accepts.

Old Business:

The conditional permit for the Keeping of Animal and Fowl awarded to the property at 17 Taft Street will expire in October. A follow-up inspection will be coordinated with the Barn Inspector, Julie Thomas, the property owner, B. Braley, and a member of the Board of Health.

S. Slarsky noted that the water in Sandy Pond is clear, and there have been no issues.

S. Benoit noted that there is still one outstanding tobacco violation. The business owner has been contacted.

Nashoba Update:

NABOH will be hosting a meet and greet for BOH members on September 25th.

There will be a number of flu clinics throughout the area during September and October. A full list is available on the Town's website.

Call Log:

The initial call about the shelter at the Nashoba Valley Inns and Suites came to the BOH.

Motion: P. Papineau made a motion to accept the Minutes of August 28, 2023.

Seconded: P. Peters

Motion Passes (3-0)

Administrative Matters:

Motion: P. Papineau made a motion to pay the Second Quarter Invoice from the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health in the amount of \$10,368.23.

Seconded: P. Peters

Motion Passes (3-0)

Motion: P. Peters made a motion to grant a Keeping of Animal and Fowl permit to 9 Lawton St.

Seconded: P. Papineau

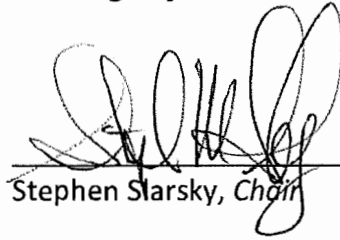
Motion Passes (3-0)

Motion: P. Peters made a motion to adjourn.

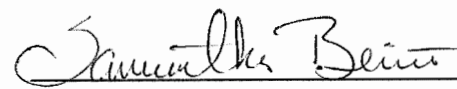
Seconded: P. Papineau

Motion Passes (3-0)

Meeting Adjourned at 6:36pm.



Stephen Slarsky, *Chair*



Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Benoit, *Administrative Coordinator*