



Town of Ayer
BOARD OF HEALTH

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

Minutes of October 30, 2023 - Ayer Board of Health Meeting

Location: 1st Floor Meeting room, Ayer Town Hall

Meeting was recorded and broadcast by APAC.

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TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: Pamela Papineau – Chair; Patricia Peters; Stephen Slarsky

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

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

Public Input:

Brian Perwak, 108 Pleasant St. presented and read a letter to the Board of Health regarding the ongoing issues with 17 Taft St.

The letter is attached to the minutes, and on file at the Board of Health office.

Old Business:

Ruth Maxant-Schulz and her lawyer Brian Burke were invited to speak with the Board to discuss the ongoing issues with her animals as it relates to her Conditional Keeping of Animal and Fowl Permit.

P. Papineau explained that the property was inspected in July prior to the Conditional Permit being used. In October there was a follow-up inspection. It has been brought to the Boards attention that there have been multiple escapes from the property by several of the animals. These animals are causing damage to neighbors' properties.

B. Burke explained that R. Maxant-Schulz knew of some of the incidences of the animals escaping but not all. He further explained that a portion of the fence had been damaged and that is how the animals were getting out. A new fence is being investigated, but there is no guarantee that this will keep the goats contained.

S. Slarsky was present for the follow-up inspection of the property noted that the original conditions of the permit were met. The fencing was not brought to the attention of the Board originally, but he did observe that it did not appear to adequate and nearly fell over when he was there.

P. Papineau explained the inadequate fencing is a violation of the Keeping of Animal and Fowl Regulations. The property needs to be brought into compliance.

P. Peters suggested that the fence needs to be fixed within a reasonable timeline.

S. Slarsky agreed and recommended that the fence be fixed within 30 days. All animal escapes going forward will result in fines being levied.

B. Burke is concerned about the cost of the fence. He also noted that the farm predates all of the neighbors, and they knew that animals escaping was a possibility when they moved in.

P. Papineau explained that the Board will expect a written plan with exact dates for the fence within 30 days, to be discussed at the next meeting. Fine will start to accrue for all instances of escaping animals.

Motion: S. Slarsky made motion to extend the Conditional Keeping of Animal and Fowl Permit for 17 Taft St. by 30 days to allow for a plan with exact date for the repair of the fence to be submitted to the Board. If no plan is submitted the Permit shall be revoked.

Seconded: P. Peters

Motion Passes (3-0)

New Business:

The Board looked at the current fee for the Sale of Tobacco Permits. Per the regulations the Board is to vote yearly as to the fee for the permit.

Motion: P. Peters made a motion to leave the permit fee at the current rate of \$100.

Seconded: S. Slarsky

Motion Passes (3-0)

Discussion:

The Board has started to discuss updating and reviewing their regulations.

P. Papineau explained that in the past the Board would review the regulations but with the changes in staff there is some discrepancies as to when the last time some regulations were reviewed. This will be an ongoing discussion.

Nashoba Update:

Bridgette Braley, Health Agent, was not present and no update was given.

Call Log:

The call log was reviewed. Most of the calls were for Nashoba Associated Boards of Health.

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

Seconded: P. Papineau

Motion Passes (3-0)

Administrative Matters:

The Keeping of Animal and Fowl Permits ^{was} ~~were~~ issued for 9 Whitcomb Ave. and 5 Groton Shirley Rd.

The next two meetings of the Board of Health will be on November 27th, and December 11th. A meeting is set for November 13th but will only be held if needed.

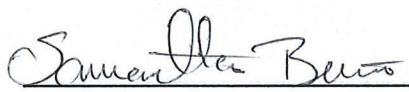
Motion: S. Slarsky made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded: P. Peters

Motion Passes (3-0)

Meeting Adjourned at 6:43pm.


Pamela Papineau, *Chair*


Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Benoit, *Administrative Coordinator*