



Town of Ayer
BOARD OF HEALTH

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

Minutes of November 27, 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 5:33pm.

Public Input:

Members of the public were present but did not comment.

Old Business:

Ruth Maxant-Schulz of 17 Taft St. and her lawyer Laurie Bejoian 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 summarized the the current issues the Board of Health has been discussing in regards to 17 Taft St. There have been multiple issues of animals escaping from the property and causing issues on neighbors property. The Board has given R. Maxant-Schulz a 30 day extension to her conditional permit for the Keeping of Animal and Fowl so that a plan to fix the fences around her property may be submitted to the Board. The 30 days expires on November 30, 2023.

L. Bejoian explained that fences are a farm issue, and the fence will be reinforced in some areas with a chain-link fence. Some of the neighbors' fences are causing damage to her fence which is how the animals have been escaping. She also explained that the regulation for fences and farms states that the fences can be made of any material.

P. Papineau explained the the Keeping of Animal and Fowl Regulations do not have a farm exception. The purpose of the regulation is to track that feed is being stored correctly. The fencing also needs to be effective enough to keep the animals within the property. She also noted that there have been no reports of escaped animals since October 31, 2023.

L. Bejoian asked for the Boards definition of effective. She also noted that this is a commercially registered farm by the state, and therefore must follow state standards. She also explained that R. Maxant-Schulz must be informed immediately of animals having escaped.

B. Braley noted that it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep the animals on the property.

R. Maxant-Schulz explained that sometimes she is not contacted by the police for several hours if the animals have escaped.

P. Papineau reiterated that a fence report is due to the Board of Health office by November 30, 2023.

Several of the neighbors commented that an effective fence would keep the animals off of their properties and that R. Maxant-Schulz has been contacted each time the animals escape but does not answer. Concerns about the stagnant water on the property were also raised.

S. Slarsky noted that if there are issues with neighboring fences the Building Commissioner needs to be contacted.

P. Peters clarified that the fence report will be submitted to the Board of Health office by November 30th to be discussed at the December 11th meeting.

New Business:

There have been an increase in reports of rats seen in the areas of Washington St., Pleasant St., Union St. and Lawton St.

B. Braley explained that the rats are the result of unpermitted chickens, trash, and bird feeders in each of the areas. The owners of the unpermitted chickens have been contacted by certified mail to apply for a Keeping of Animal and Fowl permit. Neither owner has responded.

Motion: S. Slarsky made a motion to contact the owner of both properties a second time with a deadline of December 15th to respond or fines will commence.

Seconded: P. Peters.

Motion Passes (3-0)

Discussion:

The Board discussed updating and reviewing their regulations.

P. Papineau and B. Braley spoke about what regulations may need to be updated or possibly removed. B. Braley will investigate regulations in other towns for private wells.

This discussion will continue to a future meeting.

Nashoba Update:

B. Braley explained that Food Permits are up for renewal, most establishments have complied but there are a few still outstanding.

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 October 30, 2023 as amended.

Seconded: S. Slarsky

Motion Passes (3-0)

Administrative Matters:

S. Benoit presented the Retail Sales of Tobacco Permits received in the last month by the Board of Health office.

Motion: P. Peters made a motion to accept and issue the Retail Sales of Tobacco Permits to Shaker Hills Country Club, Barnum Road Liquors, Yatim Central Convenience, Ray's Smoke Shop, Alltown Fresh, G.W. Archer, Inc., Shop 'n Save, and Pauline's Variety.

Seconded: S. Slarsky

Motion Passes (3-0)

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

Motion: S. Slarsky made a motion to accept and issue Solid Waste Hauler Permits to Mitrano Removal Services, LLC, and D. Crescio Trucking Co. Inc.

The Board discussed items to be included in the next meeting agenda, including 17 Taft St., review of regulations, and unpermitted chickens. The next two meetings will be on December 11th and January 8th.

Motion: S. Slarsky made a motion to adjourn.

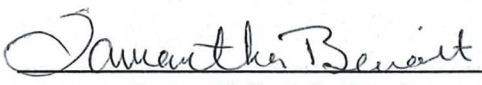
Seconded: P. Peters

Motion Passes (3-0)

Meeting Adjourned at 6:48pm.



Pamela Papineau, *Chair*



Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Benoit, *Administrative Coordinator*