


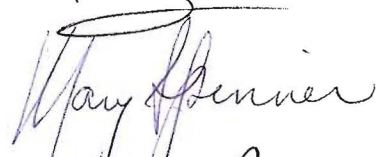

Members present: Mary Spinner, Chair; Heather Hasz, Member; Pamela Papineau, Member
Also present: Ruth Terry, Administrative Assistant
Documents: Agenda, Mail Update, Carlene Purdy cover letter & resume

- **Heather Hasz motioned to approve the minutes of March 11, 2013, P. Papineau 2nd, A 3/0.**
- Municipal Barn Inspector – Current Inspector Carlene Purdy was present.
 - M. Spinner complimented C. Purdy on her report (chart) to BOH and thanked her for her good work.
 - C. Purdy's application was the only one received in response to the job posting. She provided an updated resume, with technician certification.
 - The Barn Book is normally due by January 1, but additional time was given this year in order to complete chicken coops, which we discovered also had to be inspected.
 - The Board discussed several upcoming fowl permit applications. Two are expected shortly, and two are in process. Re the Snake Hill Road application, R. Terry has confirmed with Conservation that the owner needs to build the berm, which must be inspected and approved by Conservation before the fowl application is again addressed by BOH.
 - Fowl permits have increased from 2 in 2009 to 7-8 in 2010/11 to an anticipated 16 for 2013. Most of the increase is for new chickens; a few are for chickens existing but not permitted.
 - C. Purdy discussed the inspection process. She was received well by owners, though they initially were hesitant. Animals are being kept in very good condition. Chickens are to be fenced in, but some are being kept free range.
 - Permits specify the maximum number of animals allowed. C. Purdy's inspections found most properties had fewer than the permitted number onsite. B. Braley assesses the number of chickens per lot size, and renewal applications are checked for any amount changes. The Board discussed the Overcash permit, which was amended in 2011 from 18 to 40 chickens. C. Purdy's numbers are actual counts except for the approx. 70 pigs on McNiff's farm, which she noted are in immaculate condition.
 - In all, C. Purdy inspected 13 sites, including 11 coops and 2 farms.
 - M. Spinner reviewed the Barn Inspector's report with the Finance Committee and, because the number of inspections increased from 3 to 13, requested a larger stipend for this position.
 - **Heather Hasz motioned to appoint Carlene Purdy as Municipal Barn Inspector for the Town of Ayer for May 1, 2013, to April 30, 2014, P. Papineau 2nd, A 3/0.**
- No material was received this week from Bridgette Braley, Health Agent, NABH:
 - B. Braley has been dealing with odor issues at Nasoya.
 - The joint meeting re Westford Road/Williams Street has not been scheduled.
 - Ayer Planning Board has requested comments from BOH on the Ayer High School renovation. These will be forwarded to B. Braley.
- No bills.
- Joan Hamlett from the Tobacco Control Alliance has several new items to share with BOH. Some may require amending our regulations. We will ask her to forward information for the Board to review prior to having her at a meeting.
- Fish contamination – This issue was raised at the Shepley's Hill Public Hearing, but it is a secondary contamination, concerns the ponds, and is separate from the current Shepley's Hill groundwater issue. After the Public Hearing, P. Papineau spoke with DPW Superintendent Mark Wetzel about the fish consumption issue. She received an email from him with documentation re the Army testing Grove and Plow Shop Ponds for chemicals in sediment

and fish. M. Wetzel noted that in the past signs (in multiple languages) were put up around the ponds specifying catch-and-release. This morning he located one of the signs at the outlet of Plow Shop Pond. M. Wetzel will inventory areas likely to be fished and will check for existing signage. P. Papineau will forward M. Wetzel's email to BOH and follow this topic for the Board.

- Shepley's Hill Public Hearing on March 20, 2013 –
 - It was felt the Public Hearing went well, there were good questions, and the audience was engaged.
 - Ayer BOH will be working with Skeo Consultants to develop comments and regulation amendments, which will be reviewed by Town Counsel before a BOH vote.
 - H. Hasz asked the Town of Acton about their actions in regard to a contamination site in that town and found they place an administrative hold on the issuance of any well permits in the affected area. She is wondering about the difference between an administrative hold and a regulation change and is in favor of the most conservative approach.
 - H. Hasz also noted that in her experience, wells have been found in unusual places. For example, wells were found inside of buildings (the wells were built and then buildings placed over them).
 - "Explanation of Significant Differences" (ESD) comments are due by April 5. M. Spinner will check with the Town Administrator. Board members should email their comments to the office.
 - The next RAB meeting is scheduled for May 16 at Devens.
- The Board set its May meetings for May 6 and 20, 2013.
- **H. Hasz motioned to adjourn, P. Papineau 2nd, A 3/0.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

 4/8/13
 Mary Spinner - 4/8/13
 Paul Papineau 4/8/13