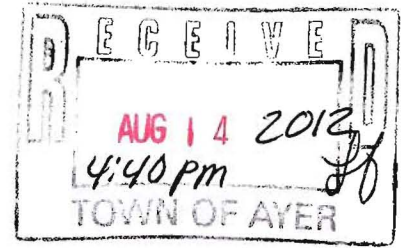


Ayer Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2012 - Ayer Town Hall - Call to order 5:00 p.m.



Members present: Mary Spinner, Chair; Margaret Kidder, Clerk; Marilyn McMillan, Member
Also present: Ruth Terry, Administrative Assistant
Documents: Agenda, Mail Update

- **M. Kidder motioned to approve the minutes of July 9, 2012, M. McMillan 2nd, A 3/0.**
- No material was received this week from Nashoba Associated Boards of Health.
 - Recent issues have dealt with bed bugs on East Main Street, fleas at the Littleton Lyne Apartments, and complaints on Willard Street.
- Bills –
 - All approved and signed bill from M. Kidder for \$34.85.
 - All approved and signed bill from R. Terry for \$16.07.
- Abandoned properties regulation –
 - M. Kidder inquired of Attorney Tom Gibbons, who handles foreclosures, how the town would let people know that it has this regulation. He suggested having the Tax Collector include the regulation with every Municipal Lien Certificate that is sent out (keeping the reg to 4 pages or less so not to increase postage). Any attorney doing a foreclosure will then receive the regulation.
 - The Board agreed that the reg should be kept simple, readable, and not more than 3-4 pages (double sided). The question was also asked how the reg must be presented in the newspaper (for the public hearing) and whether it can be condensed.
 - M. Kidder reported on the July 16 Vacant and Abandoned Properties Discussion:
 - R. Terry was thanked for her work on the folders handed out at the meeting.
 - Meeting participants felt the effort was worthwhile.
 - The Assessors Office appears to be the linchpin in the effort to identify properties.
 - The Town Administrator will initiate a shared database for departments to access gathered information. R. Terry is working on this with IT Administrator Cindy Knox.
 - Ways to get the community involved included putting something on cable.
 - Fire departments use a marking system for abandoned/vacant buildings. A fire dept. can only go into commercial buildings during business hours.
 - The next meeting of the group will be in August.
 - The Board discussed whether a certain amount of time must pass before a property is reported and how long a property can stay vacant. In Massachusetts, when a bank forecloses, the property is required to go to public auction. Owners can file bankruptcy, which further extends the process. All of this can take 2-3 years.
 - It appears that only cities have these regulations, not towns.
 - An entire neighborhood is affected by one blighted property, because it brings down the value. With this regulation, we want to let people know we are not going to take a property, but want it cleaned up.
- Mail review –
 - M. McMillan has received emails re residents' concerns about expanded mosquito spraying, drift onto water supplies, etc. The Board felt EEE and WNV are a priority. She will forward one of the emails to the BOH office.
 - M. McMillan also has many emails re curbside trash pickup, and she will forward a sample email to the BOH office.

- M. Spinner reported that DPW Superintendent Mark Wetzel was not aware we have access to the AM transmitter/road signs, which are available from Region 2 and kept in Groton. We will forward information to him.
- Calvin Street fowl permit – The Conservation Commission issued a Negative Determination of Applicability; they see no threat of contamination to Fletcher's Pond based on the Steeves' property layout and management plan.
M. Kidder motioned to approve the permit for Melissa Steeves at 32 Calvin Street for 75 chickens total, including chicks, with an expected average of 25 adults maintained year to year, M. McMillan 2nd, A 3/0.
- M. Spinner noted that 65 West Main Street will be discussed at tomorrow's meeting with the Town Administrator, Building Inspector, and B. Braley to decide how to go forward.
- **M. Kidder motioned to adjourn, M. McMillan 2nd, A 3/0.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Manly McMillan 8/13/12
Manly Spinner - 8/13/12
Margaret N. Kidder 8/13/12