

BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWN HALL
334 MAIN STREET
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2014
7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: RONALD MAJDALANY, CHAIRMAN
CLAUDIA RYAN
MICHAEL LANOUE

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Minutes of December 5, 2013

MOTION: Claudia Ryan to approve.

SECOND: Michael Lanoue

VOTE: 3-0

2. SPECIAL PERMIT:

A. Special permit #825-14 for John Corcoran and Sue Corcoran to build an addition onto the existing residence, a portion of the proposed addition is situated in the front setback at 14 Lake Avenue. Attorney Dennis Downing was present to explain the special permit request. He advised that the addition would go 3 feet into the front setback. It was noted that the property is on Town Water and Sewer. After discussion, the board voted to pass on a favorable recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

3. HEALTH AGENT REPORT:

Mark reviewed the Health Agent Reports for December 2013 and January 2014. (A copy of both reports will be filed with these minutes).

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Plastic Bag Bylaw Update – Mark advised that the plastic bag bylaw will take effect March 1, 2014. There will be a press conference on February 18, 2014. The countdown of days to the effective date is posted in the Town Hall and an advertisement will be put in the Shopper's Guide. There were two informational sessions held as well.

B. Fee Schedule Review – The Berkshire Public Health Alliance forwarded suggested rates for permits. Mark advised that Great Barrington's fees were on the high side for a while. Some fees haven't been updated for 10 years. It was noted to schedule and advertise a public hearing for the next meeting in March.

C. 2014 Permit Renewals update – The 2014 permits have been renewed except for the seasonal permits. Mark advised that there were very few late fees charged.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Berkshire Mosquito Control Letter – Mark noted because of an increase in West Nile and EEE that the Berkshire Mosquito Control will be holding an information session in the next few months. It was suggested to invite them to one of the Board of Health future meetings.

B. Tobacco Minimum Pricing – The Tri-town Board of Health who runs the Tobacco Awareness Program did a survey of the minimum tobacco pricing at establishments in Great Barrington. They identified a few businesses in the area who are not charging the state minimum price. A warning was issued at each noncompliant business.

C. Court Hearing/Farmer's Market – Tickets were issued at the Farmer's Market for not protecting food. Vendors were warned a number of times. One business appealed it in court.

D. DOR Tax List for Food and Lodging – Mark said this is going back a few years when the Town adopted the local option meals and room tax. He noted he updated the food and lodging lists with DOR and added some establishments that were not on their list. The taxes that are collected bring in a large amount of money.

E. Barrington House – The residents in the building had been given a warning that they would be without heat for several days because of a heating system upgrade. The building owner wanted to provide portable heaters but was told they couldn't do that. The people were put up at the Days Inn during the upgrade to avoid Board of Health enforcement of housing code. The situation is resolved now.

Mark advised that Berkshire South is having a fund raiser on February 27. They want to bring in restaurants similar to Berkshire Grown event. Mark advised that some of the vendors are from out of Town and since it is a fund raiser Berkshire South is requesting the approval of a flat fee to process the applications which will be paid by Berkshire South. Mark advised there would be approximately 18 vendors. After discussion the Board agreed to ask Berkshire South to pay a flat fee of \$100.00 to cover all of the permit fees for this event.

Mr. Richard Needleman of Stanley Drive spoke in regard to the mosquito spraying. He said because of excessive mosquitos in his neighborhood, he would be in favor of spraying. He also noted that he uses the plastic bags for garbage etc. He felt it is bad for business to prohibit the plastic bags.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary