

BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWN HALL
334 MAIN STREET
THURSDAY AUGUST 14, 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 July 3, 2014

MOTION: Michael Lanoue to approve

SECOND: Ronald Majdalany (stepped down as Chairman)

VOTE: 2-0

2. SPECIAL PERMIT

A. Berkshire Natural Resources Council, 20 Bank Row, Pittsfield, MA for work in the floodplain at 433 Stockbridge Road(Map 29, Lot 4) Great Barrington, MA in order to improve the access to the property in accordance with Sections 9.1 and 10.4 of the Great Barrington zoning Bylaw. (Recommendation to the Board of Selectmen) It was noted that the property is across from Chelsea and Company on Stockbridge Road. It was noted that about 63 tons of solid waste was removed from the property. The plan is to add fill to bring the grade up to Route 7, improve the driveway and put in trails. Currently the driveway starts to descend to the parking lot from the apron making it difficult to exit on to Route 7.

MOTION: Claudia Ryan to pass on a favorable recommendation to the SelectBoard.

SECOND: Michael Lanoue

VOTE: 3-0

3. HEALTH AGENT REPORT:

The Health Agent Report for July 2014 was reviewed by the Board. Mark advised there were 6 Title 5 Inspections and 5 Perc Tests and a total of 26 food inspections done during the month of July. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Tobacco 21 Initiative – Physicians in the eastern part of the state have approached Boards of Health to see if there is any interest in increasing the sale of tobacco products from 18 to 21. Mark advised that 22 towns have considered it and 21 more have yet to decide. After discussion, the board decided not to pursue the Tobacco 21 rule this at this time.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Green River Closure and Signage -Mark advised the Green River was closed for one week after heavy rain. The following week it was o.k. He also advised that he had new signs made up with state the compliant picture showing no swimming and the reason to be written on the sign.

B. Tobacco Discounts/Pharmacy Ban - During their routine tobacco pricing and signage inspections, the Tri-Town Boards of Health discovered that Rite Aid on Main Street is giving discounts for tobacco purchases with their Wellness Card. Mark explained it is a violation to our Tobacco Regulations because

once you apply a discount to a state minimum it puts it below the Massachusetts Department of Revenue minimum pricing scale. Mark suggested notifying them that they are in violation rather than issuing a fine.

C. BPHA Interviews – Mark noted that the current public health nurse took another job but is still working for us on a part-time basis. Interviews were done and the job was offered to a candidate who accepted the position so we will have a public health nurse in time for the flu clinics.

D. Fall Flu Clinics/Elections – The flu clinics will be scheduled for September and October. There will be more than last year.

E. DPH Food Protection Program 2013 Report – Mark advised the report has been completed and filed with the State. It details how many inspections were done at food establishments, schools, and Bed and Breakfasts, violations, etc.

F. Berkshire Grown – Fee Waiver Request – Berkshire Grown is hosting the harvest supper at Ski Butternut. They are looking for a break on the permit fees. They bring in about 25 to 30 vendors. Berkshire Grown will pay the organizer fee and each individual food vendor will get a permit at no charge. Last year the board approved a flat fee of \$100 to cover the permit fees. The Board agreed to do the same as last year.

G. Lodging discussion/permitting and brochure – this is in regard to the unlicensed B&B's and people renting rooms throughout the town. The state came out with a determination that says anyone renting rooms through Air B&B or similar type websites is considered a lodging establishment and they need to be regulated. It likely won't increase our local rooms and meals revenue because most fall under the threshold of 3 rooms. We will get our fees through permitting and will be able to do inspections to be sure they meet the sanitary code. Mark advised he is working with the surrounding towns on this and breaking it down over the next couple of years. Mark said the first issue is to contact people and issue permits by January 1, 2015 to establishments that are serving food and operating under Air B&B or any similar group. By 2016 people offering rooms will need to be permitted and by 2017 people who offer any regulated lodging you will need to be permitted. Mark noted that B&B permits are cost in the range of \$25 to \$125.00. Mark advised that Locke is only budgeted for 7 hrs. per week currently, so at the next budget cycle he would like to look into increasing his hours.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary