

Minutes
Board of Health Meeting
December 17, 2012

Members present Linda Cocalis, and Dan Chaput. Inspector Ron Woolhouse and Health Agent Alyssa Rusiecki.

At 7:03pm the meeting is opened.

Inspector's Report:

Ron Woolhouse reviews the critical items of the inspector's report. He reports that the Cedar Street Restaurant was using an unpermitted space for food preparation. Mr. Woolhouse indicated that the room above the restaurant which was formally an apartment should not be used for food preparation. Upon a repeat inspection Mr. Woodhouse found that a hand-washing sink was added to the room which is not permitted. The room is being used as a bakery prep area and this is an unpermitted and not allowed by the Board of Health and the owner Don Gonya was told not to use this room. If they wished to convert the room to a food prep area, they would have to submit plans and a specification sheet showing compliance with the State and Federal food codes. Mr. Gonya has written a letter to the Board of Health stating that they will not use the space and they will not be converting it at this time.

Inspector Woolhouse inspected the Village Motel and found that the rooms on the second floor were compliant with the Housing Code but because there were structural deficiencies (stairs and the decking) noted by the Building inspector, the second floor units could not be used. To date, the Board of Health has not received any documentation from the Building Inspector regarding this structural deficiency. The Health Agent states that since this is Building department issue, then the letter should come from the Building inspector, but no documentation is forthcoming. Ms. Cocalis states that the Board of Health is the "catch all" department. Ms. Cocalis makes a motion not to renew their annual permit. Discussion; the Health Agent recommends that we should hold a hearing or only provide a limited permit; with the option of the applicant requesting a hearing. Ms. Cocalis makes a motion to give a limited permit to use rooms number 9, 10 and 11 only until satisfactory documentation is received from the Building Inspector; then the Health staff will re-inspect. Dan Chaput seconds, APPROVED (2 - 0). Mr. Woolhouse exits the meeting.

Health Agent's Report:

In addition to routine inspections and office operations, the Health Agent reviews two pertinent items:

- 1). Regarding the Heritage Motel at 501 Main St. which is under a housing enforcement Order, the 60-day deadline for completion of the sewer injector pump, (as requested by Shane Moody at the Sewer Dept.) installation is nearing. The Board instructs the Agent to check with DPW Director Greg Morse and make sure the pump has not been installed; if it has not, then a letter shall be written to the owners, Dan Matt and Ed Galonek, stating that the annual permit (for January 1, 2013) to operate a hotel or motel shall not be issued from the Board of Health until this outstanding item is rectified.

- 2). The Board instructs the Health Agent to go to District Court after the holidays to file the complaint against the owner of 181 Shepherd Rd. for outstanding violations and fines.

New business:

Linda Cocalis states that there is discussion about the solar farm that is being proposed off of Shepherd Road; she would like to attend a special Selectmen's meeting in order to prevent health concerns on behalf of the Board of Health relative to solar panel leachate and site run off. Dan Chaput doesn't have enough information at this time to support taking this position. Therefore, Ms. Cocalis will attend the meeting and present her own personal viewpoint about her health concerns and solar panels.

Dan Chaput has contacted Scott Trophy regarding the active modules in MAVEN. He will work with Alyssa on the program.

Linda reports there is a new hire at the landfill/DPW; the wind-blown trash is in the process of being picked up and she is hopeful that the new hire will be very helpful in maintaining the landfill.

The Board members review the budget. It is proposed to ask for an updated health agent salary as well as additional administrative hours. The Animal Inspector's line item must be added in because our current Animal Inspector may be retiring in the upcoming year. The dead animal preparation (rabies prevention) line item must be increased because the Police Department has been paying for this task thus far. Adjustments are made to the landfill line items, regarding roll-off covers, tarps, fencing, and a replacement pump. We want these expenses to be as accurate as possible, so that there are no surprises. Dan Chaput makes a motion to approve the proposed budget; seconded by Linda Cocalis; voted and APPROVED (2 – 0).

Old Business:

Ms. Cocalis wants to have a joint meeting with Hyland Orchards regarding a timeline for the completion of outstanding issues at this property including but not limited to a requirement to get the septic system upgraded or a connection made to the municipal sewer. We will also ask Greg Morse to attend the meeting to discuss the viability of the sewer connection. No permits shall be issued until an acceptable timeline is delivered to the Board of Health.

Concerns of the members:

Linda Cocalis stated she got a call from DEP regarding the request that DEP staff do the groundwater sampling surrounding the Southbridge Landfill; they had a concern about conflict of interest if they were going to do the testing at the Southbridge landfill. She is willing to sit down with DEP and go over the GeoSyntec groundwater sampling reports which show high Chromium levels.

There is a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Comprehensive Management Plan (CWMP) from Tighe & Bond.

We need to find where to get the cancer clusters online; Dan Chaput will follow-up.

The Health Agent's performance evaluation is reviewed and approved and new/additional goals will be set in 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM
Respectfully Submitted,
Alyssa Rusiecki, Health Agent