

Stockbridge Board of Health

May 23, 2018

Minutes

Present: Henry Schwerner; Charles Kenny; Jim Wilusz, Michael Buffoni. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schwerner at 10:00AM.

Reading of minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting, having been read, were accepted as accurate.

Correspondence: Annual spraying of the railroad tracks with multiple chemicals was to be initiated.

Tri-Town Health Department: Mr. Wilusz thanked the Board of Health and Finance Committee Chairman, Jay Bikofsky, for helping to put into place a more stable financial foundation for the Tri-Town Health Department. Increased costs would be mitigated by appropriately increased permit fees, including proposed surcharges for non-compliance, to be discussed and voted upon at the public hearing/meeting on June 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Safety issues at several private residences, including 56 East Main Street, were under surveillance by Tri-Town.

Mr. Wilusz received a letter from lawyer demanding that he initiate inspections of AirBnBs in Lenox. Mr. Wilusz stated that it would be outside of the Board's scope to embark on such inspections at this point. The matter would be discussed with the Lenox Town Council, and ultimately, it would be an issue that the Boards would face again.

New business: The Board has become aware that there is a beaver lodge in the smaller of the two lakes on the town water supply property and that the outflow goes through a residential area. Mr. Buffoni came at the request of the Board to discuss the issue. The Board was concerned about possible effects on residences downstream and not with the town water supply itself. Dr. Kenny noted that the Board of Health could assist with the issuance of permits for trapping, if necessary, and wanted to discuss with Mr. Buffoni whether or not such a move would be necessary. Mr. Buffoni made it clear that the Sewer and Water Commission was well aware of the problem with the beaver and had been dealing with them on a long-term, ongoing basis. This lodge was not a new invasion of beavers. Mr. Buffoni informed the Board that the residences downstream from the beavers were on town water, and not on private wells. A discussion of the difficulties with extrication ensued, and Mr. Wilusz outlined the responsibility of the Board of Health with respect to the private residences. Mr. Wilusz requested that the Town Sewer and Water Commission stay in constant communication with the Tri-Town Health Department on any beaver related activities in town. Working together to assess the safety and/or any other public health contributing factors is essential. Each case of beaver activity should be reviewed to determine any corrective action. Having this process clear and concise, we will have a better understanding on any actions deemed necessary and to streamline a consistent messaging protocol to town leaders and the community at large.

All agreed that the establishment of a better dialogue would be of benefit to the Town, and it was agreed to promote this in the future. In meantime, Mr. Wilusz recommended that no action be taken with respect to removing the beavers at this time, and the Board agreed. The Board thanked Mr. Buffoni for attending.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Schwerner at 11:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Kenny MD, clerk. May 23, 2018

Cc: Jay Bikofsky; Sewer and Water Commission; Mike Buffoni; Selectboard