Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2023

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Members Present: Kelly Lamas, Chair; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; Antonio Tavares, Member

Also Present: Paulina Matusik

Meeting was called to order at 4:37 PM PM by Ms. Lamas and Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Monthly Business:

Ms. DeSantis signed the meeting minutes from August 23, 2023. Mr. Tavares made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for August 23, 2023. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Visitations:

Ms. Matusik updated the board on the LHS Youth Board of Health Representative. Arianna, who is the student representative from last year, will continue to attend the BOH meetings this year. She was unable to attend today's meeting but will be here next meeting.

Actions/Correspondence:

There was a request for chickens at 89 Woodland Circle. They currently have 6-10 chickens that are used for eggs. Their coop is located in the backyard. The food is located inside the coop and locked/secured from predators. Overflow food is located in the garage in buckets. Cleaning of the coop is through a deep litter method with pine shavings. Ms. DeSantis made a motion to approve the 10 chickens at 89 Woodland Circle. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

There was a request for chickens at 54 Bruni Avenue. They are requesting 8 chickens for use as pets and for eggs. Food is stored in airtight food-safe containers away from the coop and off the ground. Cleaning of the coop will be done weekly, with frequent droppings removal as needed. Deep cleaning will be done once a month. Mr. Tavares made a motion to approve the request for 8 chickens at 54 Bruni Avenue. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

The board continued their discussion for request for chickens at 97 Fuller Street that was tabled from their meeting on August 23, 2023. The resident currently has 20 chickens and 1 rooster. The board members had asked for more thorough pictures of the coop, as well as cleaning and maintenance method for the coop. The homeowner provided the board with updated pictures, but upon review of them, they felt that they did not see any differences. Ms. Matusik explained that she had spoken with Tim Fontaine about the situation and that it was his recommendation that he and the Animal Control Officer perform an inspection of the coop. The board agreed with the recommendation and will once again table their decision until the inspection is completed. They will review the findings at their next meeting.

Ms. Matusik reviewed with the board the CPR/First Aid classes that are offered, along with the cost associated with them. She feels that currently there are too many options available and

that she recommends that we offer 2-3 classes only. Ms. Matusik feels that we should offer the Adult First Aid/CPR/AED class monthly and the pediatric version yearly, if not twice a year. She also feels that we should offer a First Aid only class for those who need to have a Choke Saver Certification. Ms. Matusik feels that the cost can stay the same, but she informed the board that American Red Cross typically increases their price by $2.00 per person yearly. We typically charge the Police and Fire Department staff our cost for their trainings, and she is wondering if we should do the same for all Town employees. Ms. Lamas feels that we should continue to charge the Police & Fire staff our cost as they are First Responders and are required to be certified for their jobs. Since other town employees are not required to be certified for their jobs, she feels that they should pay the full amount. Ms. Lamas also feels that we should not increase the prices at this time as we just increased them last year. Ms. DeSantis made a motion to keep the cost of the trainings the same and to offer 3 classes only. The classes will be as follows: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED, Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED, and First Aid only. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

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Other Discussion:

The board reviewed a Planning Board Site Plan for 21 Harding Avenue. It is an approval for an all alcohol package store. The only involvement that the Health Department would have is if they are planning to start selling tobacco products and would then require proper permitting.

The board also reviewed a Planning Board legal notice for 135 East Street where a proposed café/restaurant by the name of Monster Den will be opening up. They will require proper permitting for food establishment from the board.

Ms. Matusik also presented the board members with a folder of legal notices from the Planning Board for their review, as well as recent health inspections.

Ms. Matusik presented the board with an update on the Shared Services Grant. The budget was accepted and should be available in October. She reviewed the IMA (Inter-municipal agreement) with Town Council today and sent it to the State with revisions. Once it is returned and signed off by all towns, we can move forward with hiring of the Shared Services Coordinator.

Ms. Matusik presented the board with a Health Department update. Ms. Kramer has been busy with the start of flu season. She had her first flu clinic at the Senior Center and saw 72 patients. She is having another clinic at the Senior Center on 9/25/23. We will also be providing 2 employee flu clinics including their family members as well.

The Community Needs Assessment is ready to go, and the postcards will be sent out by the end of the month. It will close on October 31, 2023.

The Health Department will be participating in the Open House at the Fire Department on 10/22/23, which is part of the Emergency Preparedness that the Ludlow Cares puts on.

Ms. Matusik informed the board that she provides Mark Strange with a monthly update of the Health Department which includes productivity for Nursing and Health Inspections. She asked if they would also like to see the update. Ms. DeSantis suggested including it with the agenda at their monthly meetings.

Ms. Matusik reviewed the health inspections that have been completed as of 9/19/23. There have been 9 food inspections, 1 mobile server inspection, 2 housing inspections, 1 housing re-inspection with the Building & Fire Department where a home was condemned, 9 complaints responded to, 3 Perc tests, 1 septic plan review, 4 septic final inspections and 1 site visit.

Ms. Matusik debriefed the board on the Community Emergency Preparedness Event on 9/12/23 at the Polish Club. It was a collaboration between multiple departments. The Police Department had a dispatcher present to discuss what happens when someone calls 911. The Fire Department went over Fire Safety with smoke detectors. Our Animal Control Officer reviewed how to build a kit for animals for emergencies. The Health Department provided information on hands-only CPR, food safety during a power outage, as well as medicine safety during emergencies. There was discussion on how attendance at the event was lower than we had hoped for. Ms. Lamas suggested that maybe future events can be later in the day to allow for residents to attend after work. This event could have also been impacted by the actual water emergency that occurred on 9/12/23, with residents losing water due to a water main break in Springfield.

The next Board of Health meeting will be on October 19, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Tavares to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 PM. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis

Secretary

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