Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

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

Also Present: Paulina Matusik, Tim Fontaine

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Ms. Lamas and Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Monthly Business:

Ms. DeSantis signed the meeting minutes from October 19, 2023. Ms. DeSantis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for October 19, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

Visitations: None

Actions/Correspondence:

Ms. Matusik provided the board with a departmental monthly update for October. There were several events that occurred. The Health Department participated in the Open House at the Public Safety Complex, the Red Ribbon Week presentation at the Senior Center, the Rag Shag Parade and the Walk to Remember. All staff members attended the MHOA Conference this year. The Community Health survey ended. Flu clinics are almost done. There is one left. To date, a total of 213 flu shots have been given out. As far as the Administrative Assistant position goes, interviews were held, and an offer was put out to one of the candidates and she is just waiting to hear back.

The board discussed a request for a local upgrade for 46 Guertin Avenue. They are requesting a 2 foot reduction in ground water from 5 feet to 3 feet. They have to use an alternative system to make the system fit into the small lot. Mr. Tavares made a motion to approve the 2 foot reduction in ground water for 46 Guertin Avenue. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

The board discussed a request for a local upgrade for 1475 Center Street. They are requesting a 2 foot reduction in ground water from 4 feet down to 2 feet. In addition, they are asking for use of a Sieve Analysis in place of the Perc Test. Mr. Tavares made a motion to approve the 2 foot reduction in ground water, as well as the use of a Sieve Analysis for 1475 Center Street. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

The board discussed a request for a local upgrade for 1123 East Street. They are requesting a reduction of 50 feet from the owner's well in order to make the system work. It normally is required to be 100 feet from the well, but you can reduce it to no less than 50 feet. Ms. DeSantis made a motion to approve the 50 foot reduction from the well for 1123 East Street. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

The board discussed a request for a local upgrade for 142 Marion Circle. They are requesting a 2 foot reduction in ground water from 4 feet to 2 feet, as well as the use of only 1 deep hole in the disposal area. There is a lot of ledge/rock up in this area, making it very difficult to get into

the ground. Ms. DeSantis made a motion to approve the 2 foot reduction in ground water, as well as the use of only 1 deep hole for 142 Marion Circle. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

The board discussed a request for a local grade approval for 735 Moore Street. They are requesting a 2 foot reduction in ground water from 4 feet to 2 feet, as well as the use of a Sieve Analysis in place of a Perc Test. Ms. DeSantis made a motion to approve the 2 foot reduction in ground water, as well as the use of a Sieve Analysis for 735 Moore Street. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

Mr. Fontaine discussed the Health Inspector inspections done in the past month. He hasn't had as many inspections as previous months, as he has had at least 3-4 Perc Tests every week. He was also at 2 conferences during 1 of the weeks.

Other Discussion:

Ms. Matusik provided the board with a Community Health Survey update. She officially closed the survey on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at midnight. Total responses received were 322 (278 online and 44 paper copies). The top 5 areas in Ludlow that residents would like to see addressed are as follows: 1. Safe roads 2. Access to parks 3. School safety 4. Mental health 5. Emergency preparedness. Ms. Matusik will have a more thorough report with percentages for next month's meeting. She did have some takeaways from this survey on how to improve on the next one. There was discussion on what should be shared with the residents from the survey. Ms. Lamas feels that sharing a few of the top highlights would be appropriate. All in all the survey was a positive experience in helping the department identify areas that the residents find important.

Ms. Matusik provided an update on Shared Services. There are no updates as she is still waiting for Warren, West Brookfield and Palmer to sign the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA). We did receive $147,500.00 as of October 10, 2023, and we should be receiving the other quarter relatively soon. Once the IMA is signed we can post the Shared Services Coordinator position. The coordinator will be a liaison with the other towns, as well as Board of Selectmen.

The next Board of Health meeting will be on December 12, 2023, at 4:30 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Tavares to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 PM. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

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Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis

Secretary