

Shutesbury Board of Health
April 20, 2022, 7 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Catherine Hilton, chair; Wm Levine, Norene Pease, Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, board members.

Actions taken:

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

56 Wendell Road: documentation of demolition progress was distributed. Board voted unanimously to defer any action until the meeting of June 1, at which time we will review the situation. It was suggested that we request confirmation from the lawyer with whom the owners are working.

West Pelham Road, two new lots: Charlie recommends issuance of septic system permits. Board agreed that Cat will issue the permits when the applications are complete and the fees received.

Request by Town Clerk for a guidance document regarding masking at Town Hall during town elections on May 21: the board did not find a guidance document to be necessary but will recommend signage respectfully requesting that everyone wear a mask while in the building for the protection of persons at risk. Election workers will wear masks.

Discussion:

The BOH trailer was damaged by a falling tree. Cat will try to get the fire department to tow it to SES on May 20 so we can empty its contents, mostly into the shed, and turn it over to them; we will also bring tents to Town Hall and help set them up for Town Meeting. It was agreed that the signs should be trashed but the privacy screens kept. Wm can take the signs to the transfer station in his truck. Arleen visited the shed and found everything in good condition but lots of mouse droppings; no sign of mouse damage.

Cat: Took it upon herself to write a letter stating that the septic system inspection of 11 King Road should be considered “passed” on receipt of the appropriate water tests.

Described the problem of road runoff at 66 Lake Drive, which is being investigated by ConCom. Will try to attend site visit on April 24.

Reported that the application to opt out of any mandatory pesticide spraying is due May 27. To be discussed at the meeting of May 4.

Norene: Described the Public Health Excellence Grant Program, which can provide state funding for building public health capacity; the funds can be used for health directors and agents, public health nurses, epidemiologists, and clerks and to help professionalize public health staff and boards. Board voted unanimously to join with five other towns, including Greenfield, in applying for a grant. Norene will suggest that Jen Hoffman, Greenfield’s health director, should include cross-coverage for MAVEN in the grant application.

She also reported that Tracy Rogers is leaving FRCOG. We wish her well and thank her for her work of many years.

Arleen: Described her actions in regard to a complaint regarding the serving of venison at a Friday night dinner at the SAC. The anonymous complainant argued that this violated food protection guidelines, adducing a regulation stating that wild game is intended for consumption by the immediate family and guests of the hunter and may not be sold or given away. Arleen consulted both our health agents who said if the meat was butchered by a USDA-certified butcher, it was okay. The co-sponsor of the dinner assured her that this was the case. For the future: should we ask them to submit the credentials and detail the handling of the animal when wild meat is served? And are they exempt from the consumption rule, being a private club and serving the meat on essentially a donation basis. Arleen will try to ask DPH’s food protection program about this.

She also contacted Phoebe Walker about MAVEN cross-coverage with public health nurses in FRCOG. Claudia will cover for her while she is traveling.

Adjourn 8:10