

## **November 2, 2017 Board of Health Minutes Town of Williamsburg**

Members present, Helen Symons, Rusty Luce.

Valerie Bird, Health Agent  
Donna Gibson, absent due to recent surgery

Guest, Mary Dudek, Williamsburg Resident and member of the Conservation Committee

Helen Symons (acting chair) called the meeting to order at 2pm.

Minutes of October 3, 2017 were not available for review

### **Discussion re Radon in Water**

Mary Dudek was introduced to the group and she presented her concerns re the recent discovery by three of her neighbors that they had higher than normal concentrations of radon in their well water. Two of the homes are new construction and one is undergoing renovation. Mary asked the Board if they would consider adding the requirement for a well permit to include testing for Radon in water. She brought a document from the web "Parameters and Testing for Private Wells" (see attached) for the Boards review. Valerie felt that Radon in water could not be regulated because there are no parameters required by the state for elevated levels. Helen suggested that in the future including a notice on new well permits which would include the notification that elevated levels of radon in water have been discovered in Williamsburg and that testing should be considered by the person seeking the permit. They could also be referred to the Mass DEP Radon division in Northampton for further information and the booklet of Radon given to the person requesting the permit.

Rusty Luce will contact Henshaw well drilling to see if they currently test for Radon when drilling for a well.

Valerie Bird will call and speak with Lisa Hebert Mass DPH to see if the State of Massachusetts requires any testing for Radon in water.

Further discussion of the matter was tabled until Donna Gibson, chair is able to return to the meetings. Helen will bring the information that was given to the group to Donna while she recovers at home.

Old business:

### **Transfer Station Issues:**

Wiring and installation of lights in the Transfer Barn. Charlene Nardi has approved the amount of \$2000 which was budgeted for the installation of lights in the transfer barn. Rusty will notify the electrician that he can proceed with this work.

Rusty requested from the board approval to spend \$650 for Carl Smith to construct a cover over the cardboard compactor to protect the electrical box and also the attendant. This will keep the

rain and snow off of the compactor. A motion was made and approved to authorize this construction. The money is to be taken from the open box fund. Kathleen Casey will request permission for the work from the DEP.

New business;

### **Green burials**

A Williamsburg resident has requested approval from the Board for green burial on his private property. The Board will need to develop a policy for green burial on private property as there is no policy now except for the one that pertains to burials in the Town's cemeteries. See attached.

Once the policy has been written the Board will have to publish it and have a public meeting to discuss and adopt the policy. The Board will investigate whether there are any other Town's in our area that allow green burials on private property. Charlene has forwarded to the Board the information that she found on the State's Website for green burials.

Helen will contact Eric Webber from the cemetery commission for further information and assistance in writing the policy.

### **Budget**

Charlene pointed out to the Board that in our current budget Stericycle is being paid from the general expense line which means that this line item does not have enough money to pay this expense for the remainder of the physical year. Stericycle should be paid from the open box fund and not the general expense fund. Valerie pointed out that the two-year contract with Stericycle will be completed in the Spring of 2018 and at that time the Board should renegotiate a contract with Stericycle thru the Municipal Program. The Board was unaware of this program when they negotiated the contract with Stericycle.

### **Transfer Station Inspection**

Kathleen Casey reported that the Transfer Station successfully passed the recent DEP 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter inspection with no deficits. Rusty Luce and all the attendants are to be commended for all their hard work and dedication.

### **Health Agent Report**

No housing issues reported. Valerie is in the process of sending out the yearly restaurant permit forms.

### **Bills Received for payment**

United Site Services invoice 10/19/17 \$104

Next Meeting November 14, 2017 2pm

Meeting adjourned 4pm