

Board of Health Minutes July 2, 2018 Town of Williamsburg

Members present, Donna Gibson, chair Gordon Rusty Luce, Helen Symons

Valerie Bird, (on vacation)

Guests: members from Indivisible Williamsburg, Penny Schultz, Dr. Stephen Jones, Rose Marie Traina

Meeting called to Order at 6pm

Discussion with group from Indivisible Williamsburg re petition to Governor:

Members from Indivisible Williamsburg have requested that the Williamsburg Board of Health write to Governor Baker about their concern that “natural gas” has risks to the health of the general public. They are requesting that Williamsburg join other Boards of Health who have written to the Governor expressing a wish to have him require a Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment for gas infrastructure. There was a general discussion led by Stephen Jones, MD, on some of the risks which have been identified. (See attached document which he presented.) Dr. Jones is retired from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Indivisible Williamsburg is campaigning to ask area Board of Health to join in petitioning the Governor re this matter. It was noted by Helen Symons that Williamsburg is not currently supplied with Natural Gas as there was a moratorium on any further gas supplies. The two towns in our area that have written are Conway and Ashfield. The Board will take this request under advisement. In the meantime Penny Schultz will contact the office of our State Senator Adam Hinds for any input he might have on this matter. Rose Marie Trainor will contact our Health Agent Valerie Bird re her input as previous health agent for the Town of North Adams as they had already sent a letter to the Governor. Penny will contact Donna Gibson as to when they can come to another BOH meeting to discuss this further and whether the Board will take any further action on their request.

Minutes of meeting June 11, 2018 were accepted with no corrections.

Old Business;

10 Dewey Circle Rusty made an inspection of the house on this date (July 2nd) and noted that about half of the home has been cleared out. There are no longer empty cardboard boxes going up to the ceiling. He has discussed the current condition with the health agent and the Board has agreed to give Ms. Tripp one more week to continue to clear it out. If she is making a good faith effort then the matter will not be forwarded to the Attorney General’s Office. Rusty will communicate this to Ms. Tripp verbally and a follow-up letter will be sent by Ms. Bird. Rusty will plan on making another inspection on July 9th and will report back to the Board as to the situation.

Fence at Transfer Station

Rusty received an estimate to replace the broken fence at the transfer station with a stockade type fence from Fitzgerald Fence for \$1750. He also contacted L and L Fence but they could not provide an estimate in a timely matter. The current condition of the fence is an eyesore and a potential hazard to the public. The Board Authorized Rusty to spend no more that \$2000 to replace the broken fence. He plans to take down the current fence as soon as the other is ordered and will place the discarded fence in the metals box. The fence serves as a barrier for the deep gully to the right of the entrance to the Transfer Station.

Helen noted that the fence on the left of the Transfer Station appears to be in good repair but there are trees which are growing up that obscure the granite outcrop which is unique to the area. The fence stops on either side of the outcrop. It may be the only outcrop which is easily viewable to the public. Helen asked if Rusty could cut down the few trees which are growing in the front of the outcrop so it is more visible. She will ask a friend who is a geologist to give us more information re the geological features so that we can post this information for people who would be interested.

New Business:

The discussion re Air B and B, s was tabled until Valerie's return from vacation.

Sticker sales are continuing. After July 15th Rusty will have someone posted at the entrance to inspect for stickers. If there are no stickers displayed the persons will not be allowed to use the TS until they purchase a current sticker.

Bills presented were paid.

Next meeting 7/23/2018 2 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Symons