

Minutes of Health Board meeting February 25, 2016

Present: Gordon (Rusty) Luce, Donna Gibson (members) & Valerie Bird (Health Agent) & Joyce Muka (Accountant)

Absent: Helen Symons

Commenced 2:00 PM

Old Business:

Housing Conference: Valerie & Rusty attended recent seminar & found it helpful.

Housing issues progress:

23 Myrtle St (Mongeau) is about half done;

23 Old Goshen Road goes to court tomorrow;

2 Chesterfield Rd (O'Brian, owner & tenant) Valerie has VNA working with both;

7 Laurel Rd is boarded up & on the housing market; tenants have moved to Northampton;

125 Goshen Rd (Fuller) is in atty's hands;

125 Main St (Dextrase) camper is still in use & not closed up & covered; Deadline to do so have passed, twice. Val & Rusty will inspect again Monday 2/29/16 then take it to housing court if still unfinished.

Joyce Muka Williamsburg's Accountant joined us to clarify records of Open Box Revolving Fund.

Transfer Station:

- Plastic bag recycling program continues to be problematic. Residents are not sorting & disposing bags of acceptable types of plastic film, bags are still not clean & dry so that attendants must sort them themselves involving much time. After a one-year attempt to recycle them we discussed eliminating the program. Will await Helen Symons return from vac to make final decision. Donna will contact Joanne Korpita whose class began the effort.
- Staffing issues discussed; another part-time worker is needed. Unclear if one attendant will return from leave.
- Sharps disposal: Town of Windsor has contacted Valerie about starting their own collection program. There is still money left in that grant and FHD towns need to reorder more containers. Valerie will see if Windsor can order some proper containers when we do. Val will set up another training in coming months for new attendants to learn about blood-borne pathogens.
- Discussed further the usefulness of getting another compactor for the paper & cardboard recycling box to reduce our hauls to Springfield MRF. We calculate that it would pay for itself in 2 ½ to 3 years. We would need to contact DEP, Capital Planning Board & determine funding source(s).
- T.S. sticker price increase is again discussed as way to have residents cover more of the cost of trash disposal. Williamsburg still has the lowest sticker & disposal prices of the western Hampshire County towns. The \$60/year fee has not changed in many, many years.
- Composting of organics at T.S.:

Several residents have come forward in past year to discuss composting food waste. Results of recent survey need to be tabulated and evaluated. Will await Helen's return as she has them. Donna will contact Whately's BOH to get their current costs of trucking material to their local site.

New Business:

Deadline for spring newsletter articles is mid-March. Discussed items to submit from the Health Board:

Avian flu info for residents with back-yard chickens;
Mosquito-born pathogenic diseases (EEE, WNV, Zika).

Next meeting of Board: Monday, March 14, 2016 @ 2:00 PM.

Adjourned : 4 :00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Gibson, Chair

Minutes 2/25/16