

Board of Health Minutes April 10, 2018 Town of Williamsburg

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

Meeting called to order at 2pm

Minutes of March 21, 2018 accepted with no corrections

Old Business;

Post card education: Cards have been mailed with the information re recycling, residents are expected to receive them this week. Phone call received from Kathleen Casey that she had received hers. Helen paid the postage \$236.12 from her personal funds and will submit bill for reimbursement. Kathleen Casey is completing the necessary forms so that the remaining grant funds for the cardboard compactor can be awarded now that the educational requirement has been fulfilled.

New Signage:

Helen asked Rusty about the current sign at the TS that lists all the articles that can't be recycled. She felt that the sign should be more positive in order to encourage recycling. Rusty showed the group a new sign that had pictures of what could be recycled for both paper products and plastics. The Board felt that these signs would be more effective and Rusty will display them at both compactors. The older one will be kept available in case a resident has any questions on what cannot be recycled. Rusty says that the attendants do still remove articles out of the bin which cannot be recycled. It is confusing especially about articles made with black plastic. Rusty explained that the black plastic cannot be mixed with the lighter colors at the MRF Center. There are also pamphlets which explain what to recycle that are distributed with the new stickers.

Radon info on Town Website

Helen will ask Brenda to add this information to the Town Website as follows:

"The Board of Health is aware that there are areas in Williamsburg that have a high level of Radon in the soil. Because of this, the Board recommends that households test both air and water for Radon if they use a private well. The State does not require this testing. For more information, there is a Radon Unit at the Massachusetts Department of Health Office in Northampton. The Director of this unit, Lisa Hebert has free testing kits and can be reached at 413-586-7525 LisaHebert@state.ma.us Information re Radon is available at the Town Offices and at the Library.

New Business;

Green Burial

A verbal request has been made for a green burial on private land. Rusty will contact the person who has requested this and will ask them to submit the request in writing. The Board will take this under consideration once the written request has been received and will also consult with the Health Agent. The board will use the recommendations as outlined by the cemetery committee for green burials in the Town's cemeteries for guidance.

There is a new vendor for the mattress recycling and they will also recycle the electronics. The Town receives money from both of these articles once they are recycled.

Article for Spring Newsletter discussed. Helen to write. Topics include the new cardboard recycling, possibility of switching to pay by bag, inspection of bags

Donna explained that we are one of two towns who stayed with the dual stream recycling (separating bottles, plastic from paper) and because of this the Town has a better quality of recyclables. For the period of July 1, 2017- December 30, 2017 the Board received a check for \$1276. This money is deposited in the Open Box Fund. Towns with single stream recycling do not receive any money for their recyclables.

Next meeting Monday April 23, 2018 2pm

Meeting adjourned 330pm

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Symons