

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH

February 25, 2015 – 5:30 pm – Downstairs Meeting Room
Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Nelson (5:33 PM late), Chair, Albert (Al) Cummings, Christopher Boutwell & Gina McNeely R.S., CHO

Guests:

Christopher Boutwell called the meeting to order at 5:30PM in Michael Nelson's absence.

Review January 21, 2015 Minutes:

*Al Cummings **motioned** to accept the minutes January 21, 2015. Seconded by, Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.***

Director's Report for January 2015

- a) No heat calls – new data loggers have been useful in tracking the heat and have had compliance after test results.
- b) 38 & 41 East Main Street – The house trailer has been removed after a long time.
- c) 3 Norman Circle – owners have been re-contacted and it is in progress with a lawyer and the Montague BOH.
- d) Tobacco 21 Regulations to be signed in March at the monthly BOH meeting.

*Al Cummings **motioned** to accept the Director's report for January 2015. Seconded by, Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Christopher Boutwell turned the meeting over to Michael Nelson 5:34 PM upon his arrival.

Health Inspector's Report for January 2015

- a) Walk through will happen at 38 East Main Street at 12 noon 2/26/2015 with Health Inspector and Building Inspector along with an appointed person (handyman) by Rick Farrick.
- b) 110 L Street Bob Obear (receiver) and the project are moving along despite the weather which is hindering some of the progress at the location.
- c) 132 L Street Bob Obear (receiver) is in progress of renovating this property under the receivership program.

*Christopher Boutwell **motioned** to accept the Inspector's report for January 2015. Seconded by, Al Cummings. **Motion passes.***

*Al Cummings **motioned** to have a recess until 5:45 PM. Seconded by, Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.***

**Public Hearing: Simon Stamps 320 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA
Regarding odor complaints coming from Simon Stamps.**

Guests: Simon Alciere (Owner - Simon Stamps) and employees, William "Bill" Doyle (Owner -Doyle's Car Wash) and Chris Couture (Landlord for Simon Stamps)

Michael Nelson opened the Public Hearing regarding Simon Stamps at 5:45 PM

Gina McNeely:

- a) Over the past 18 months there has been a complaint regarding odors at Simon Stamps.
- b) It is not a constant odor but it is there due to the process of making stamps by lasering rubber products.

- c) Specifications of the hood and the ventilation system will be discussed. Laser Rubber OL 1 MDS sheets are available for view. There has been no information regarding how the rubber reacts with a laser.

Simon Alciere:

- a) There have been some issues that have been raised that the company uses propane or propane like substances this is not a fact.
- b) Odors are produced when they are lasering the rubber the smell has been compared to that of a skunk.
- c) If the BOH receives a call about the “bad” smell it could be that they have an aesthetic concern or a health issue. Is it safe for the environment and humans
- d) They use trodat-eco rubber that is made from natural materials and imported from Austria.
- e) Waste material is very minimal (visuals shown)
- f) Filtration system 3 part system (filter all exhaust from laser engraver into a particulate filter system – which removes 99.9994% efficient particulate matter as small as 0.4 microns. Activated carbons other measure to filter and absorb larger molecules to purify gases. The third process is a spritzer which sprays a small mist into exhaust system of organic vegetable oil which helps to break down and neutralize the matter. MDS sheets were made available. Sewage treatment plants use this type of system to document their materials.
- g) Things to consider:
 - a. Odor vs. nuisance: A complex issue based on biology, neurology, cultural and memories as well as many other factors. Why do some love or find offensive a smell of a candle, pipe tobacco, and wood smoke.
 - b. Frequency and duration – Non continuous odor, person and the wind is also a factor.
 - c. Location of the business and zoning
 - d. Is Simon Stamps using state of the art systems to help with the concerns as they are brought to the company’s attention – yes.
 - e. MA DEP has inspected and the business has been in compliance.

Bill Doyle:

Finds the odor is offensive and wants to know why Hillside Plastics doesn’t smell. Different items, process not the same business. Acknowledged that Simon Stamps is doing a wide variety of processes to avoid both health and smell concerns.

Gina McNeely:

Main concern is public health so she will review the MDS sheets and continue to work with Simon Stamps on these matters.

Chris Couture:

Is in the business of developing and securing businesses for his properties and the town including the business of Simon Stamps. He currently is the landlord for the building and is concerned about the longevity of this business in town along with Simon Alciere. Chris gave the DEP report to Gina McNeely and the board that stated that Simon Stamps is in full compliance with its regulations. He noted that a brewery will also be going in next to Simon Stamps and that the location is zoned for these types of businesses to thrive and be on the town’s tax role.

Michael Nelson announced to continue the public hearing to a future date TBD after Gina McNeely and Simon Alciere meet and continue to be informed and educated about the filtration process.

Public Hearing: Discussion of alleged piggery at 119 Old Sunderland Road

Parties present: Complainant did not attend the hearing.

Suzanne Webber & Al Miller- Brooks Bend Farm Owners

Tyler Sage – Farmer who is raising the pigs

18 neighbors to the farm were present. Twelve received the complainants flyer which urged them to attend the meeting and oppose the farming of pigs. Of the 18 neighbors in attendance none were opposed to the raising of pigs at this location.

Guests: Walter Ramsey- Town Planner, members of the Agricultural Commission, and Suzanne Kretzenger.

Michael Nelson opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 PM of an alleged piggery at 119 Old Sunderland Road.

Gina McNeely:

John Lankarge has visited the office and sent emails to Gina and Walter Ramsey, Town Planning and Conservation Agent, regarding the alleged piggery located at 119 Old Sunderland Road encompassing 90 acres. When Mr. Lankarge visited Walter Ramsey reminded him of the Right-To-Farm Bylaw in Montague and that there were no wetlands impact at this location. Gina visited the site and the pigs were nowhere near the property line. Gina looked up the laws and the definition of a piggery which she has not been able to find. Gina called the Department of Agricultural Resources and reached Stephanie Funk who with FDA inspector Roberta Brown did an unannounced visit to the farm and found no problem at all at with the pigs or the operation at 119 Old Sunderland Road location. *(Gina reads email from Department of Agricultural Resources from Stephanie Funk and Dr. Al O'Conner – February 17, 2015 regarding the piggery).* The housing and feed appeared appropriate with no issues of disease or garbage feeding found. John Lankarge was invited to this meeting but told the BOH he would not be attending. Gina McNeely will be sending Mr. Lankarge the copy of the inspection report from MDAR.

Suzanne Webber:

Mr. Lankarge deposited notices in mail boxes to neighbors on Old Sunderland Road and Taylor Hill Road regarding the issues he had with the farming of pigs. Suzanne Webber is the owner of the farm and leases it to Tyler Sage.

Suzanne Webber took seriously John Lankarge's concerns and has addressed them with him as well as Tyler Sage. Suzanne Webber offered to give a draft of a farm management plan to the BOH. John Lankarge has contacted the state and has advocated for the rezoning of the farm has indicated that the BOH has no jurisdiction over pigs. There is an educational component to the farm, horse boarding, and apothecary all use Brooks Bend Farm.

Tyler Sage:

Plan for Brooks Bend Farm is Pasture Pork – with a system of intensive rotational grazing.

Tyler Sage submitted a written business description of his plans for the farm.

Lucy Hemmendinger:

A neighbor who enjoys the farm and socializes with all the neighbors will try and do outreach to all the neighbors as the weather gets warmer.

Gina McNeely:

Did some research on other towns (Tewksbury & Haverhill Massachusetts) after Mr. Lankarge mentioned them having piggery regulations as well as citing MGL c. 111 § 131.

- Tewksbury, MA has a population of 28,961, land area of 20.7 square miles and 1,398 people per square mile.
- Haverhill, MA has a population of 60,879, land area of 35.64 square miles and 1,708 people per square mile.
- Montague has a population of 8,437, land area of 30.4 square miles and 278 people per square mile.

*Al Cummings **motioned** to send Mr. Lankarge a letter stating that there have been no faults found and to send him a copy of MDAR report and that there were 18 attendees that were in favor and support of Brooks Bend Farm. Seconded by, Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.***

*Al Cummings **motioned** to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 6:47 PM. Seconded by, Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.***

Meeting adjourned: 6:47 PM

Approved by: _____

Date: _____