

**Board of Health
Minutes – Regular Meeting
September 14, 2015**

Members Present:

Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair
Caroline Donnelly
Sarah Thompson
Anita Raj

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director

Member Absent:

Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair

Note: Many residents attended the hearing. The Board of Health files contain the roster of residents and their addresses.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M. once quorum was reached. Dr. Brunkhorst chaired.

151C Bagley Avenue – Keeping of Animals – Hearing

Ms. Thompson moved to open the hearing. Ms. Raj seconded. Vote: 4-0.

Ms. Porter presented some background on the Keeping of Animals Regulation and reminded the Board that Caroline and Richard Fedele had been before the Board for a permit when they previously lived on Grey Terrace. They now have a new residence at 151C Bagley Avenue with 12.5 acres of land. They are seeking a permit to keep one pig, 20 chickens and 2 goats. Ms. Fedele summarized her previous experience in keeping the pig and what she and her family learned from it. She reiterated that Oreo the pig is a family pet and they feel they now live on a property where they can retrieve him from Chip-In Farm where he's been residing to live in a pen on their property. Additionally, she will never keep a rooster and will keep the property clean and tidy. She presented a manure control plan whereby manure will be removed weekly and in warmer months treated with lime and wood chips.

The Fedeles currently keep 4 chickens, below the number requiring a permit from the Board. They want to keep 6 or 8 chickens and two goats for control of poison ivy. The pen area is 24 feet x 24 feet, with a 6 foot x 10 foot shelter for Oreo and the goats.

Sandy Couvee from Chip-In indicated that the Fedeles visit and care of Oreo daily and have been very responsible. She indicated that pigs are very clean animals.

Many neighbors on Independence Drive asked questions about the proposed permit. These questions and the Fedeles' response are summarized below:

- 1) What is the manure disposal plan? Manure will be removed weekly in the summer and it will be taken for compost. It naturally composts itself over time. If it needs to be disposed of more frequently than the Fedeles will do it.
- 2) Will the smell affect the neighborhood? There are not anticipated to be any odors with good maintenance but the prevailing winds are to the northwest, away from Independence Drive, according to Ms. Fedele.
- 3) Are the goats noisy? They may bleat but they are known to be quieter in herds so that's why they are proposing 2. There are many trees between the goat pen and abutters.

- 4) How big is Oreo? 600 pounds according to Mr. Fedele
- 5) How long do pigs live? 11 years according to Ms. Couvee.

Ms. Donnelly moved to close the hearing. Ms. Raj seconded. Vote: 4-0. The Board tabled further discussion and vote on the Permit Application until after the Hearing for the second Keeping of Animals Permit.

54 Hartwell Road – Keeping of Animals – Hearing

Ms. Thompson moved to open the hearing. Ms. Donnelly seconded. Vote: 4-0.

Proponent Michelle Hoseith presented her application for a Keeping of Animals Permit. She outlined that she is an experienced horsewoman, has a degree in equine studies and has kept horses for 39 years. She stated that she takes pride in her home and wants things to be clean and sanitary. She proposes to keep 2 horses and will need a variance for lack of total lot size – she needs 1.66 acres and has 1.38 acres and distance of fence from abutter - fence should be 15 feet from any abutting property line and is on the property line with Town Forest.

Her plan for the keeping of horses and manure control is rigorous. Her paddock area and stalls are larger than required by the regulation. She will treat manure with fly predator and in peak heat she'll use a chemical odor control. There will be an electric fence around the paddock and manure will be composted below grade.

Two sets of neighbors were present to speak. The Naylor's from 48 Hartwell Road, immediate abutters to the east expressed the following concerns: contribution to standing water in their backyard (it already floods) impacting their irrigation well and exacerbating flooding conditions, concerned that due to Ms. Hoseith's travel schedule manure will not be managed in a timely manner, their children could potentially be impacted by the proposed electric fence around the paddock, concern for the presence of 2 horses next to a household with 4 kids. The Adamses from 56 Hartwell, immediate neighbors to the west, expressed concern over exposure to the horses and exacerbation of allergies. Ms. Adams indicated that she has a severe allergy to horses. She cannot be near the animals and she has asthma that is allergy induced. She carries an Epi Pen. She also stated that they just moved in earlier in the year and wouldn't have bought the house if horses were next door. She also questioned how loud the horses would be.

Ms. Porter questioned whether a hydrological study could be conducted to determine soil types and whether the addition of a horse paddock with compacted soils would impact surface water accumulation. Ms. Hoseith indicated she would have a horse trailer and would have hay delivered monthly through her driveway for storage in the proposed barn. She indicated that horses are not particularly noisy. She also indicated that if horse flies became an issue, she could use permethrin to treat them.

Ms. Porter indicated that she had inquired of the Conservation Commission Administrator as to whether she had an opinion on the proposed permit but had not heard back from her.

Ms. Donnelly moved to close the hearing. Ms. Raj seconded. Vote: 4-0.

Discussion of Animal Permits

The Board felt they had sufficient information to vote on the Keeping of Animals Permit for 151C Bagley. Ms. Thompson moved to approve the permit for the keeping of 1 pig, 20 chickens and 2 goats, with the condition that the goats be acquired March 31, 2017. Ms. Raj seconded. Vote: 4-0.

Given that the Town Forest is an abutter, the Board felt they wanted to have the Conservation Commission Administrator's opinion before making a decision on whether to issue the Keeping of Animals Permit for 54 Hartwell Road. They also wanted Town Council's opinion relative to their duty and potential liability in issuing the permit.

BOH Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Raj moved to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health as amended; Ms. Donnelly seconded. Vote: 4-0.

Ms. Raj moved to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2015 Executive Session Meeting of the Board of Health; Ms. Donnelly seconded. Vote: 4-0.

Board of Health Action Items---Old and New Business:

No meetings were attended by Board liaisons.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter reported on her response to numerous complaints against Crestview Kennel at 187 Hartwell Road from their neighbor at 183 South Road. She had tallied the Board of Health and Police Department responses to complaints since 2007 and identified 67 complaints lodged. Of the 34 nuisance-type complaints (noise or odor) only 20% were substantiated. This issue is ongoing with various other complaints being lodged by the same complainant. Town staff will be meeting with the complainant next week to discuss possible recourse and outcomes.

Staff are planning for Bedford Day and the flu clinic that will be held that day. Tick and mosquito bite prevention outreach will also be conducted as staff will have the MA Department of Public Health's "Bite Lab" presentation at Bedford Day.

New Health Agent Katharine Dagle started work in the office earlier that day. She is experienced and very eager.

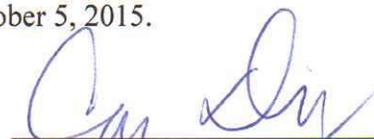
Ms. Donnelly moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Raj seconded. Vote count: 4-0.

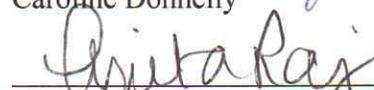
The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on October 5, 2015.


Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair


Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair


Caroline Donnelly


Anita Raj


Sarah Thompson