

BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm
Remote Meeting via Zoom Video

PRESENT

Health Agent: Bruce Wilson, Jr.
Chairperson: Kelly McGovern
Vice Chairperson: Vincent Forte, Jr.
Member: Patricia Leclair
Animal Control: Tracey Taddeo
Building Inspector: Tim Aicardi
Minutes Clerk: Tina Griffin

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. McGovern called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

DISCUSSION

ANIMAL REGULATION VIOLATIONS - 64 RUTHELLEN ROAD

Board Members along with Building Inspector, Tim Aicardi and Animal Control Officer, Tracey Taddeo were present to discuss Animal Regulation Violations for 64 Ruthellen Road. Homeowner, Kamori Porter and neighbors of this property were also present to discuss the situation with the Board.

Mr. Wilson discussed phone calls that have come into the office from neighbors of this property, describing the poor animal conditions and the smell of animal feces that they are dealing with. Mr. Wilson also showed photos that were taken of the animals and property so that everyone could be made aware of the current conditions.

Ms. Porter addressed the Board and gave a summary of the animals she has at this address and their living conditions. Currently, this address has: ducks, chickens, goats, dogs, rabbits, cats and full-grown pigs. Ms. Porter explained the food source for the animals and how she currently keeps it in large, covered barrels so that mice or other animals can't get into it. Also, she does have a Coop on the property for the chickens, a house for one of the pigs and area for the goats to stay out of the elements. The cats and rabbits are housed inside the property and the dogs can go both inside and outside.

Ms. Taddeo, Animal Control Officer, discussed the current situation and how there is inadequate housing for some of the animals. Ms. Taddeo stated that the shelter for the pigs is barely large enough for one and is inadequate for them. Also, the chicken coop is too close to the neighbor's properties and not properly maintained. Ms. Taddeo checked with Ms. Porter to see if she had vaccination records for the goats. Ms. Porter was not aware they had to be vaccinated and said she would call the vet to have that completed as soon as possible.

Mr. Aicardi, Building Inspector, told Ms. Porter that the chicken coop needs to be moved so that it is 20' from all adjacent property lines. These requirements are listed right in the current Livestock Regulations. In addition, the livestock owners must follow the Manure Management Plan Provision that is also detailed in the Livestock Regulations.

Some of the neighbors asked for a moment to update the Board on conditions they have witnessed. One neighbor said that the odor from the animal waste is so strong they can't go out in their yard, especially during the hot summer months. Multiple neighbors reported hearing a dog yelp outside all

throughout the night on many occasions. Another neighbor also reported that he can't play out in the yard with his son because the animal waste is too close to the property line and is unbelievably strong.

Board members discussed the situation with the homeowner and advised her of some items that need to be corrected. Ms. Porter told the Board that she is rehoming the ducks within the next couple weeks. Also, she was going to be giving up one pig by the end of October. The Board continued discussing these issues with Mr. Aicardi and Ms. Taddeo to get a plan established on timeframe for correcting issues.

Mr. Forte made a motion to have Ms. Porter reduce the number of animals in population at this residence. The ducks are to be relocated, as well as the two pigs within 30 days. The yard must be cleaned up and animal waste must be covered and away from neighboring properties. The chicken coop must be moved to 20' from the property line and this area must be cleaned as well. Livestock Regulations must be in full compliance at this address, going forward. The goats must be immediately vaccinated. This must all take place by October 21st and will be inspected by this date. After the initial inspection there will be follow-up inspections every 30 days, as necessary. Ms. Leclair also wants something in writing to be kept on file with the office, showing where the pigs were sent to. Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion passes unanimously.

BILLS

Mr. Forte made a motion to pay \$59.99 to Amazon for an external hard drive. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leclair and carried.

PLANS

31 ARCHER STREET

A septic design plan for 31 Archer Street was reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the plan with the following local upgrade requests that were reviewed and verified by the Health Agent, Mr. Wilson:

- to install leach field bed 10' from cellar wall where 20' is required per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(b)
- to install leach bed 4' above groundwater where 5' is required with a two-minute percolation rate per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h)

Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Leclair made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Forte and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
Tina M. Griffin

NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 5, 2021 AT 7:00 PM