



## TOWN OF MERRIMAC BOARD OF HEALTH

2 School Street  
Merrimac, MA 01860  
Tel: 978-346-4066

[boh@townofmerrimac.com](mailto:boh@townofmerrimac.com)

LOCATION: Police Station Meeting Room, 2 Jana Way, Merrimac MA 01860

Board of Health Meeting Minutes Wednesday June 2, 2022, 7:30 PM

- I. Call to Order: 7:30 PM by Chairperson Christine Berube. Present members, Jason Sargent, Irina Gorzynski, Health Agent, Deb Ketchen.
- II. Approve Agenda Motion to approve by 1<sup>st</sup>, Jason Sargent, 2<sup>nd</sup> Irina Gorzynski. All in favor, 3-0
- III. Approval of meeting minutes from May 26, 2022 with edits indicated:  
Motion to Approve 1<sup>st</sup> Member, Jason Sargent, 2<sup>nd</sup> Member, Irina Gorzynski. All in favor, 3-0
- IV. Motion to move Health Agent report to end of Old Business section V. 1<sup>st</sup> Jason Sargent, 2<sup>nd</sup> Irina Gorzynski. All in favor 3-0
- V. OLD BUSINESS: Review public hearing discussion/recommendations and Keeping of Animals draft proposal edits. Chair Chris Berube stated that this is a regular meeting please refrain from comments until the chair recognizes you. Below are excerpts of the 2+ hour discussion
  - a. Member IRINA GORZYNSKI: Can we ask Greg Pickering, animal officer what he needs to satisfy his requirement for MASS State? Currently, he goes where he has been before as he does not have a list of addresses with animals.
  - b. Admin to check current Avian Flu state levels/laws and rules.
  - c. Member IRINA GORZYNSKI: Poultry needs to stay on property. We need a requirement to keep animals on their owner's property. Also concerned with the \$10 fee. The zoning for a rooster and free range should be only in the Agricultural/Residential District.
  - d. Member JASON SARGENT: Eliminating the Agricultural/Residential district was a request from the public hearing but this won't help the Animal Control Officer in tracking the addresses with animals
  - e. Town Clerk GWEN Sabbagh- The dog permits run from January 1 through April 1, then a grace period before late fees are enforced. Late fees begin June 1. The permits are sent out with the census by February. COMMENT by Chair Berube: We will consider the dates associated with the dog permits
  - f. Member CHRIS BERUBE: Section G5: regarding to suspend or revoke the permit. This is essential. If a resident is denied there will be a back and forth with the board and the resident and a hearing. We will add a step where the Board will return to the owner the initial denial with an opportunity to resubmit/revise/remediate with comments further from the Board. Instead of notifying the abutters. Chair will edit regulations.
  - g. DPW Director SINABALDI: It's important to note that if something is zoned Ag/Res it does not give the people the right to do anything they want. We should have some specific standards.
  - h. Resident comment: I have so many animals; can't a list just be put on the census as to how many I have without the permitting and regulations? Chair comment: This has to be approached under the umbrella of Public Health as well as town knowledge of how many animals there are. The list is good and can be added on the town clerk software but we do need to look at it in a public health purview.

- i. Member JASON SARGENT: A list doesn't lean towards education of keeping animals, plans for feed, waste etc. Rodents are a public health issue and regulations can help tamper that. This is a benefit to having minimum regulations.
- j. Resident: recognized, The BOH doesn't have animal knowledge, what knowledge do you have to say what we can and can't do? J SARGENT comment: MDAR- we will look at the farm bureau and their regulations. There are many places to find the "experts" for us to advise us.
- k. Resident comments, recognized. MGL 129 covers Agricultural livestock disease control. It's where animal control officer has permission to inspect.
- l. Member JASON SARGENT: Our intent is not to go out and inspect without a conversation.
- m. RESIDENT: Are those with animals already "grandfathered"? Response: If it was grandfathered it would not exempt you from the requirements of the animals in the regulations. We struggled with "grandfathering" but we still need to be sure everyone is following the regs correctly.
- n. Member CHRIS BERUBE: We are waiving all initial permit fees for all citizens who have animals today. However, by December 31<sup>st</sup> all have to fill out the permit. Effective 4/1/2023 and thereafter the fee in the Draft regulation is \$10 per household.

VI. OLD BUSINESS continued:

- a. Records request for video-Chris to get back to town clerk with letter of response.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:


Motion to table 6 Valley Street septic plan review until next meeting. 1st Irina Gorzynski, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Sargent, all in favor 3-0

COA Director unable to attend so we will move the Nurse discussion to next meeting.

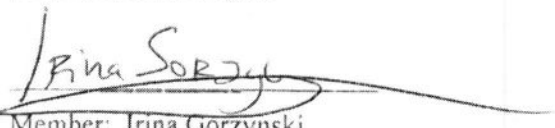
VIII. HEALTH AGENT REPORT:

- a. 115 current cases since April, 1, 2022.
- b. 5 Second Street complaint and inspection. All good
- c. 3A allocation finalized: Look into safe for COVID files with this allocation or we can file in a new filing cabinet with election equipment in Town Clerks area.
- d. Responsibility form to be emailed to town accountant for reimbursement of Health Agent conference attended.

IX. Adjournment: 10:10 PM

  
Chairperson: Christine Berube

  
Member: Jason Sargent

  
Member: Irina Gorzynski

Minutes Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Administrative Assistant Linda Ralph

Date Submitted to Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_