

**Belchertown Board of Health**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday December 16, 2019 at 7:30 PM**  
**Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium**

**Present:** Roger Bonsall, Dana Burton, Hope Guardenier, LEEANNE CONNOLLY and Jim Potter

**In-Attendance:** Judy Metcalf, Director, Mary Grenier, Recording Secretary

H. Guardenier opened the meeting at 7:36 PM.

**7:35 PM Appointment: Joan Almeida** Mrs. Almeida did not respond to a Board of Health letter to appear at the meeting and is not present. The BOH was contacted by Ann Pittsley, Town Administrator Assistant regarding Almeida's Country Café, 146 State Street. Ms. Pittsley said that Owner Mrs. Almeida has not and will not be issued a Victualler's license due to Mrs. Almeida owing Sewer fees and personal property taxes. Ms. Pittsley said that the BOH should not issue her any Food Establishment permits because she is not in good standing with the town. J. Metcalf wanted the Board to know that Almeida's Country Café is a very clean establishment, inspections are very good and there are no violations. Town tax collector sends out a memo to all departments with a list of residents/businesses that are behind in tax payments, any names on this list are not supposed to be allowed to receive any permits or licenses until they are in good standing with the town. L. Connolly said that there are departments that issue permits without individual being in good standing. Refusing permits/licenses until a letter of good standing is issued should be required from all departments not just certain ones.

H. Guardenier asked if it would be appropriate for a Board of Health member go and speak with Ms. Almeida. Consensus was yes. H. Guardenier said that she would make a visit to the restaurant and speak with Ms. Almeida and let her know that back taxes need to be paid or an agreement made with the town treasurer for payment so she will be in good standing to receive the 2020 Food Establishment permit.

H. Guardenier motioned that Ms. Almeida's food establishment permits are contingent upon her talking to the tax collector/treasurer. J. Potter seconded. All in Favor. Board signed warrant.

H. Guardenier motioned to accept the October 7, 2019 meeting minutes as written. L. Connolly seconded. All in Favor.

**Phoenix Farm** 401 Mill Valley Road Elly Vaughn owner. J. Metcalf did an inspection on December 13, 2019 to see the set-up Ms. Vaughn has so she will be able to sell her own unpasteurized apple cider in her farm store. J. Metcalf said she has the equipment and her labels are correct. J. Metcalf said that the bottling permit would be for her to sell in her farm store only. The question Ms. Vaughn had was her bottling operation will only be seasonal. The BOH bottling fee is \$200.00 annually, she asked if fee can be pro-rated. J. Potter motions to add Limited Seasonal Bottling permit and fee of \$75.00 to the schedule of fees.

R. Bonsall seconded. All in Favor.

J. Metcalf told the Board that on December 11, 2019 Governor Baker sent out new regulations regarding the sale of tobacco. The ban on e-cigarettes for tobacco flavor only has been lifted. The staff has received new signage and will be visiting all licensed tobacco retailers. Beginning on June 1, 2020 the State will ban all flavored tobacco products, including menthol. This goes for cigars, pipe tobacco etc.

J. Metcalf showed the Board signage received from UMASS Medical Laboratory of Zoology. They reference ticks and how to avoid and protect oneself. C. Latulippe, RN will be working with the Conservation office to place these along the town trails and other conservation areas.

**6 Green Avenue** Update: The Zoning Board of Appeals at their November 20, 2019 hearing, upheld the Zoning Enforcement Officer's decision that 6 Green Avenue is in compliance with the town's by-laws. J. Metcalf will send a letter to the Planning Board regarding the current by-law which allows livestock and the raising of animals on a 40, 0000 sq. ft. lot. She will cc the Agriculture Commission.

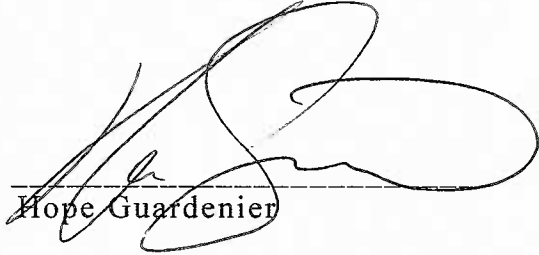
**257 Jabish Street:** J. Metcalf informed the Board that the installation of the septic has been done. She said the Owner had a very good septic installer from Leeds.

*R. Bonsall after 32 yrs. on the Board of Health is retiring. Board members and staff thanked him for his service and all the help he has provided throughout those years. All wish him the best in retirement.*

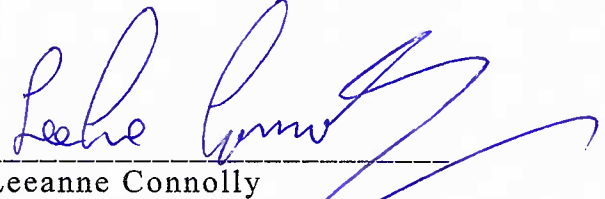
H. Guardenier motioned to close the meeting at 8:48 PM R. Bonsall seconded. All in Favor.


Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mary Grenier

  
Hope Guardenier

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Dana Burton

  
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Leeanne Connolly

  
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Jim Potter