Belchertown Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday April 2, 2018 at 7:30 PM
Lawrence Memorial Hall

Present: Roger Bonsall, Andrew Drawec, Dana Burton and Hope Guardenier
Absent: Gary Racicot
In-Attendance: Judy Metcalf, Director of Public Health
Recording Secretary: Mary Grenier

R. Bonsall opened the meeting at 7:31 PM.

56 Gold Street Owner: Paula Goodhind and Dan Waskiewicz; Alan Weiss Engineer:
Local Variance and Local Upgrade requests:
1) Septic repair less than 100’ but greater than 50’ from a wetland resource area (Local)
2) Use of a sieve test in lieu of perc due to wetness (310. CMR 15.00)
3) Reduction in separation from groundwater for leach field vertical offset 4’ to 3’ (310
CMR 15.04 (h))

Alan Weiss was present. J. Metcalf began by asking A. Weiss why the permit is for a
repair instead of new construction. The existing home is being razed and not being re-
built in the same footprint. J. Metcalf said she currently is involved with this same issue
for another property in town. Home was being razed and owner re-building in a new area.
They did the perc and design as new construction per Title V. A. Weiss said the house
and septic have been sitting in water for decades. The home cannot be refurbished due to
mold. A. Weiss said he believed this was the best case scenario. J. Metcalf said the
property is on 5 acres, was there a reason why another area could not work? R. Bonsall
asked the same, although he said he would not be in favor agreement to cut down of
removing fifty or more trees to save 30’ to put in an SAS. R. Bonsall asked A. Weiss to
look into designing the system elsewhere. J. Metcalf expressed concern over setting
precedent in allowing a local upgrade to be less than 100’ from a wetland for new
construction. The Board has never approved this local upgrade for new construction. R.
Bonsall agreed. A. Weiss said he will reassess the property and come back to the Board at
their next meeting. The Board took no action for 56 Gold Street.

Board signed the annual Funeral Director license for Beers & Story Funeral Home.

A. Drawec motioned to appoint Thomas Flebotte as Belchertown’s Animal Inspector April
1, 2018 through April 30, 2019. D. Burton seconded. All in Favor.

J. Metcalf said the shared nurse position has been added to the budget. J. Metcalf will
look into remaining budget and see if a hire can be made before July 1, 2018. H.
Guardenier asked who would oversee the nurse’s position. J. Metcalf said she will be the
direct supervisor, but she/he will be an employee of the Town of Belchertown.

J. Metcalf told the Board that the office received a letter from Sandra Vyce of 31 Poole
Road addressed to Gary Racicot. They seem to be having beaver problems by the lake and
Ms. Vyce wanted to know what the town will be doing about it. J. Metcalf wrote a
response explaining the Board of Health does not implement the beaver permit nor hire
workers to perform the work and gave information on the process for issuing a beaver
permit and town departments that have taken an active role in having some work
performed in the past. The Board thanked J. Metcalf for that response.

H. Guardenier brought to the Board’s attention that the HIP (Healthy Incentive Program)
is coming to an end. This program allowed SNAP benefits to double when purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables. She would like for the Board to write a letter to our Representatives to keep the program going. J. Metcalf agreed to send a letter on the Board’s behalf.

The Board asked about Almeida’s Café and if the issues with the town have been satisfied. J. Metcalf said that Lisa Banner, Town Treasurer, was going to have a meeting with Ms. Almeida and explain the town’s format for the on-line pay system. Ms. Almeida has made payments on-line but she is not applying her payments to the correct payment that is due i.e., RE taxes, excise taxes, sewer charges.

D. Burton wanted to bring up the issue of kittens in the office of the Town Clerk. She believes this is very unprofessional to ask someone who is allergic to cats to conduct their business in the hallway. D. Burton said there were Facebook postings which were very derogatory against the person that wrote a letter to the Town Administrator, Gary Brougham, and Judy Metcalf, Director of Public Health stating cats should not be allowed in a public office. D. Burton said that Animal Control has a new building and should be open to allow the socialization of the kittens to be done there. J. Metcalf said that the Board of Health only regulates service animals, animals in food establishments and work with the schools where only rabies vaccinated animals are allowed when they have a certain program or event. That is the extent of the Board of Health’s involvement. J. Metcalf said she is unaware of other Departments regulations. Gary Brougham, Town Administrator, had responded to the complainant and is allowing the Clerk’s office to keep the program. H. Guardenier asks that the Board write a letter to the Selectmen, let them know the BOH has received a complaint, provide allergy information and to voice concerns regarding the town’s liability insurance.

The meeting minutes of February 5, 2018 were reviewed. R. Bonsall noted that in the first paragraph should read ‘...to be no less than 10’... instead of ...to be less than 10’ ... and paragraph five should read ‘The Board of Health Mission Statement along with information about MA Boards of Health mandated programs and enforcement of BOH regulations. D. Burton motioned to approve the meeting minutes of February 5, 2018 as amended. A. Drawec seconded. All in Favor.

Board signed the warrant.

D. Burton told the Board she will be unavailable to attend the May 7, 2018 meeting.

D. Burton motioned to adjourn at 8:50 PM. H. Guardenier seconded. All in Favor.