Belchertown Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday April 3, 2017 at 7:30 PM
Lawrence Memorial Hall

Present: Roger Bonsall, Sean Cleary and Andrew Drawec
Absent: Gary Racicot, Robert Hutchinson
In-Attendance: Judy Metcalf, R.S., CHO Director of Public Health
Recording Secretary: Mary Grenier

R. Bonsall, Vice Chair opened the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Grantham Group Christopher Heights Facility: Present were Brian LaRoche, Senior Project Manager, Christopher Howe, Code Consultant and Walter Ohanian. Project seeks 2 variances from the State Plumbing Code. 1) Designate common area restrooms on the 2nd and 3rd floor as ‘unisex’ restrooms and 2) permission to provide less than the required number of clothes washers. Mr. Howe addressed the Board and explained that each unit has their own private bathroom. The common area restrooms are mainly for staff. There will be an excessive amount of toilets by having both male and female restrooms. S. Cleary asked about visitors; Mr. Howe said the facility has the correct number of restrooms per code they are just seeking that the restrooms be ‘unisex’, gender neutral, handicapped accessible. Basement area restroom will remain separate Male and Female. B. LaRoche explained to the Board the reason for seeking variance to install less clothes washers than plumbing code requires. The staff does all of the residents laundry for this facility. There will be one washer and dryer on each level. The facility is defined as having ‘sleeping units’ not ‘dwelling’ units which the building code makes a distinction. S. Cleary said that if the facility is up to code with the amount of toilets he has no problem with the one unisex bathroom. R. Bonsall and A. Drawec agreed. S. Cleary motioned to approve the variance for the Grantham Group 1) to have one washer and dryer on each level at the Christopher Heights facility based on the codes definitions of sleeping units and dwelling units and 2) a variance to have one unisex, gender neutral, handicap accessible restroom on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the facility for public and staff. A. Drawec seconded. All in Favor.

J. Metcalf asked if Mr. Howe would answer a few questions regarding their plan submittal. The plans show a ‘nurse’s station’ that does not include a sink? Mr. Ohanian said that this is a small office space just for the nurse to do and keep paperwork. The residents will not be seen or accessed in this space nor will medications or wound care be done. J. Metcalf asked about the ‘Pub’ area. It was explained to the Board that the Pub area was an activity room. The only food served in this room will be possibly birthday cake etc. There will be coffee available but meals will be served in the 2nd and 3rd floor country kitchens. The country kitchens will maintain the silverware and plates in their pantry. Before a meal the kitchen staff collects the plates and brings them downstairs to plate the meal, plates will be covered with a dome plate cover and brought upstairs. The dome plate covers are brought back down to the kitchen for washing and sanitizing. There is coffee makers on all three floors and are hard plumbed. The Board thanked Mr. Howe, Mr. Ohanian and Mr. LaRoche for coming in.

R. Bonsall after reviewing the meeting minutes of March 6, 2017 asked to amend paragraph “NESFI...their appeal with the ZBA to their appeal of the Zoning Enforcement Officer’s decision regarding the operation of a commercial slaughterhouse at George Hannum Street is still pending.

Gail Gramarossa was present to address the Board and discuss the Quaboag Hills Drug Free
Communities Project. Belchertown is served by this grant. This task force takes a look at
the broader issues regarding drugs and the opioid crisis especially in the area of prevention.
They have worked with Belchertown Opioid Awareness Task Force with outreach and
education and have training on the use of nasal narcan. QHDFC keeps up on policy
programs. They will be doing a student health survey for 8th, 10th and 12th graders. Data
will be at the school district, health department may want to get a copy. The Belchertown
schools have been doing a lot of education with their Life Skills program.
In reference to the recreational marijuana regulations this comes with a lot of other issues
besides the medical marijuana facilities. In Central MA there are surveys planned to help
towns better understand their rights. Some towns/cities are placing the issue on a ballot
question and on their town meeting agendas. Some are looking into excluding retail
marijuana in their zoning by-laws. J. Metcalf said that her concern was with edibles and the
liquid form of marijuana being retailed. G. Gramarossa said that it will be important to have
laws and regulations in place. The Board thanked G. Gramarossa coming in and updating
them and hopes to be discussing this further.

J. Metcalf told the Board that New England Small Farm Institute (NESFI) has officially
withdrawn their appeal regarding the slaughter house on George Hannum Street from the
Zoning Board of Appeals.

A. Drawec moved to appoint Thomas Flebotte as Animal Inspector to the following term
May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018. S. Cleary seconded. All in Favor.

A. Drawec moved to accept the meeting minutes of March 6, 2017 as amended. S. Cleary
seconded. All in Favor

Board signed warrant.

A. Drawec motioned to close the meeting at 9:00 PM S. Cleary seconded. All in Favor.

Mary Grenier, Recording Secretary

Roger Bonsall, Vice Chair

Sean Cleary

Andrew Drawec