Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
July 26, 1994

Present: Ellen Foberg, Leonard Laffond, Melissa Quinn
Absent: James O'Brien (vacation)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. Also present were the following: Thomas Keefe (Division of Fisheries and Wildlife), David Vallette (Springfield Union News), Arthur Brochu, Carol Lively, Dot Page, Robin Reed, Buster Reed, Jim Lively, Laura and Terry Krumm.

The Board considered acting on the following proposed regulation:

> No person shall feed or otherwise entice the presence of geese or other fowl or wild animals on town-owned property in particular the Town Green, Pelham Lake Beach and the Rowe Elementary School grounds. Violation of this Rowe Board of Health regulation shall be punishable by a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars ($25.00) per offense. Each such feeding or enticement shall constitute a separate offense.

This regulation was under consideration due to a health hazard created by the Canada geese that have taken up residence at the Mill Pond and at Pelham Lake. The increasing numbers of geese have created a health and sanitation problem at both these locations. Feeding the geese only encourages more of them to stay and nest in the area. They devoured flowers purchased and planted by the Beautification Committee last summer. Goose droppings have rendered the green and gazebo virtually unusable the last two years and have likewise created an unsanitary situation on two occasions at the playground at Rowe School. Park workers have to constantly chase the geese away from the beach area at Pelham Lake. Notices have been placed in the Goal Post asking residents to refrain from feeding the geese, but this request has been ignored. The Board is reluctant to enact another regulation, and declined to act on it at this time. Various methods of discouraging the geese were mentioned, including "cracker shells", a synthetic spray that allegedly discourages geese, and fencing the pond. Tom Keefe was invited to explain to those present the characteristics and biology of Canada geese, why the population expands and is persistent. He related many reasons why feeding the geese is harmful to their health and well-being. In addition, it encourages them to frequent areas where they conflict with humans, such as the village green, the playground and the beach. There were questions raised by those in the audience, but in the end it was apparent to everyone that it was in the best interest of the geese as well as the human population to cease feeding. Robin Reed and Dot Page asked that signs be installed on the green asking people to refrain from feeding the geese. Ms. Foberg stated that it was unfortunate that the Town had to go to the expense and trouble to put up such signs, but she would look into it.

In regard to a request from Bob Davidson (Potter Road) for a license to sell raw milk in Rowe, it was noted that a farmer milking more than three cows must apply to the Department of Food and Agriculture for a license of certification for his barn and milking parlor. After ascertaining that

this certification is in order, the local Board of Health inspects the sales room and issues a milk and cream license.

A well log was received from Lynde Well Drilling, Inc. of Brattleboro, Vermont for the former Edith Truesdell property, now Wesley Gfroerer. (see file)

Ms. Foberg contacted Ward Plumbing and Mr. Ward agreed to give a quotation on installing a meter on the Town hall well. He also agreed to do all the maintenance on the Town Hall plumbing.

The Material Recycling Facility contract has been renewed as of July 1. A new coordinator (contact person) needs to be appointed, preferably someone who is actually involved in the recycling program. Ms. Foberg will talk to Ms. Roche and Mr. Wessman regarding this appointment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Approved:

Ellen L. Foberg

Ellen L. Foberg, Chairman

Leonard J. Laffond

Leonard J. Laffond

(vacation)
James E. O'Brien