Town of Rowe - Board of Health

Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2000

Present:

Ellen Foberg, Leonard Laffond, Mary Jo Phelps, Melissa Quinn
Audience: Raymond Boutwell, George Gaudry, Carol Lively, Jim Taylor; and Tom Cullis, Kay Hajek and Jeremy Mularella from Americorp.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Potential Rabies Exposure: (old business)

(Note: The following discussion was related to an issue that was first brought to the Board at their last meeting on January 18, 2000.) Mr. Boutwell asked about a policy or a job description for the Animal Inspector relative to responsibilities for dealing with rabies. He questioned the correct procedure to follow in the event of a possible human exposure to the rabies virus. Chairman Foberg noted that the Animal Inspector is not responsible for notification regarding human exposure; and in addition, the Rowe Animal Inspector was not contacted until after the suspected animal had been killed. Mr. Laffond noted that the Board of Health has put many articles in the ***Goal Post*** over the past several years trying to educate residents about rabies. Mr. Boutwell said that he doesn't usually read the ***Goal Post.*** Mrs. Foberg added that area newspapers with larger circulations and television stations have been giving information about rabies exposure for years now.

Chairman Foberg then again read from 105 CMR 335.200 which states:

"Before antirabic vaccine is furnished to a physician to treat a patient, said physician shall certify in writing to the board of health the name and address of the patient to be treated, the severity of the bite or degree of exposure, the place where the bite or exposure occurred and the identity of the animal responsible for the biting if said is obtainable."

Because this notification never occurred…indeed the Board still has never been notified by any physician, medical facility or any agency that any human exposure occurred in the Town of Rowe…the Board of Health does not believe that the Town is responsible for costs incurred after the fact. Mrs. Foberg did state that it appears from the state laws and regulations that the **local Board of Health is responsible to provide rabies vaccine to uninsured individuals**, and certainly would have done so had the Board been made aware of the exposure. Ruth Loomis, Town Nurse Practitioner, could have obtained and administered the vaccine for all of the individuals involved. Information in this regard will be published in the ***Goal Post.*** Mr. Boutwell would like something in writing and Chairman Foberg said that he was welcome to a copy of the meeting minutes.

Permits & Licenses:

In receipt of a check for $25.00, the Board voted to grant a septic system installer's license to James Williams of Middletown Hill in Rowe for calendar year 2000.

Test Results:

Water test results (from July, 1999 to December 1999) were received from Berkshire Enviro-Labs for the Rowe School, the Town Hall, Avery Fountain, Pelham Lake Park beach and the pitcher pump at the Park. All test results were within allowable limits.

Wage & Benefit Package:

A wage & benefit package for the Town Nurse Practitioner was reviewed. It was voted to approve this package, with some minor amendments, as presented.

State Regulations and Correspondence:

The Board received a copy of amendments to regulations (105 CMR 430) relative to Camps for Children from DPH for file.

DEP also sent information on percolation testing policies, a list of public water supplies in Rowe, and a copy of a report resulting from an inspection of the water supply for the Rowe School.

DPH sent a food-borne illness worksheet and report form. Forms have been given to Town Nurse Practitioner Ruth Loomis.

Inspections:

Inspection reports were received from Health Agent Sharon White for re-inspections at the Rowe School and the Maple House B&B (see file.)

Health Agent Services:

A credit invoice in the amount of $200.00 was received from FRCOG for services of the Health Agent that had been charged to the "Healthy Homes" grant.

Vegetative Management:

A yearly operational plan was received from New England Power for their tower line right-of-way in Rowe.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa S. Quinn, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

Ellen L. Foberg, Chairman

Leonard J. Laffond

Mary Jo Phelps