Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2000

Present: Mary Jo Phelps, Ellen L. Foberg, Geoffrey N. Bagley and Melissa S. Quinn

The meeting was called to order at 7:37PM. Also present were William Reardon, Leonard Laffond and William Foster.

As a result of a discussion at the last meeting (see minutes from July 18) in which there was a heated discussion between Mr. Foster and Mr. Reardon relative to a small shed on the Reardon property, Mr. Foster, Mr. Reardon and Mr. Laffond were invited to try to resolve the matter. Mr. Laffond stated unequivocally that he never had a conversation with Mr. Foster about Mr. Reardon's shed. Chairman Foberg said (on two occasions during the meeting) that Mr. Foster owed apologies to both Mr. Reardon and Mr. Laffond. He never did apologize, but would only say that he was "mistaken" when he said that the Selectmen (specifically Mr. Laffond) told him to pursue having Mr. Reardon demolish the shed as an "unsafe structure". He also said that he was the one to use the term "eyesore" and said that it was a poor choice of words on his part. Mr. Reardon agreed to pull down the shed and dispose of it at the dump, but he refused to take out a demolition permit, saying that it was no bigger than the meeting room table and was basically "a pile of sticks". Mr. Foster said that in his conversation with Town Counsel, he was told that he could have a sheriff deliver a notice to a property owner relative to an unsafe structure. Chairman Foberg stated that the matter was frivolous due to the size of the structure and said that she was not in favor of pursuing the matter any further. Mr. Reardon then stated that if the shed fell down, he would clean it up. He might even use it for a "campfire". Mr. Bagley asked about personal liability if it is an unsafe structure. Mr. Reardon said that the shed isn't big enough to worry about that. Chairman Foberg directed Mr. Foster to take it off his books and asked if everyone considered the matter resolved. Everyone answered affirmatively. When Mr. Reardon left the room, he approached Mr. Foster and shook his hand.

Mr. Foster asked about the Gfroerer property, which has a large barn that has been deemed an unsafe structure. The Board felt that this matter did warrant concern, and directed Mr. Foster to continue to attempt to contact the owner. Mr. Gfroerer has indicated in the past that he would take care of the matter, but he has not taken any measures to correct the problem or demolish the barn.

Mr. Laffond came in to ask the Board what they would require if he put an addition on his cabin at 208 Hazelton Road relative to the septic system. The present system has two lowboy-leaching chambers and a 1000-gallon concrete tank. He was advised that the tank would be satisfactory, but Chairman Phelps said that she would check with Health Agent Sharon White to what would be required.

A pumping log was received from Houghton Sanitary for the Rowe School. The 6500-gallon tank was pumped and appeared to be in good condition.

A letter was received from the Community Health Program stating that the Town of Rowe was entitled to 12 hours of free time ($480.00) for lead inspections or unsafe house complaints.

The meeting recessed at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa S. Quinn, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

Mary Jo Phelps

Ellen L. Foberg

Geoffrey N. Bagley