

## Board of Health Meeting Minutes

*Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:30 pm via Zoom conference call*

**Present:** Denise Wheeler (Chair), Sharon Winn Fannon (Vice Chair), Rose Pelchuck (Member), Clif Emmons (Member), ORCA Media, Katie Lane-Karnas (Recording Secretary), Judith Robert (Town Clerk), Jay Copping (Town Health Officer), Wilson Hughes (Town Constable), Jim Barlow, Esq. (Town Attorney), Hans Melhus, Marc Mihaly  
**Absent:** John Brabant (Member)

1. Call to Order: Denise Wheeler called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:34 pm in regard to Marianna Truman, 1238 Lightening Ridge Road in Calais. Sharon Winn Fannon has recused herself from this topic for various reasons and stepped away from the conversation. Ms. Truman was given notice about this hearing but was not present on the Zoom call. The Chair swore in the Board of Health and Town Health Officer. The Town Attorney noted that Ms. Truman reached out today to the Chair by email, who let her know how to participate and sent the Zoom instructions on how to connect to the call.

2. Notice of Intent to Seek a Health Order: The group reviewed the Calais Town Health Officer's report of the situation, which included details of his receipt of complaints and the inspections at the property that he made. The details are listed sequentially in a "Notice of Intent to Seek a Health Order for Rental Housing Health Code Violations at the Marianna Truman Apartment" document. The document explains that the Health Officer is seeking a Health Order against Marianna Truman. A copy of his Inspection Reports and photographs are attached.

He reported that initially there was a request from an upstairs neighbor (who no longer lives there); an inspection was made at that time. Clutter, mildew, and unsanitary conditions were noted. A follow up complaint was made by Mr. Lilley (the property owner) and proper notification to the tenant was given. The second visit showed some improvement in some areas and worse conditions in other areas. From a fire safety standpoint, the apartment was cluttered making navigating to enter or exit the apartment difficult; a smoke detector was missing. The Deputy Sheriff served Ms. Truman with the health order paperwork. This hearing is Ms. Truman's opportunity to respond.

3. Proposed Health Order: The Board of Health reviewed the proposed Health Order that lists "findings of fact" and "conclusions and order" which determine which Rental Housing Health Code violations exist and what specifically is being ordered to be completed to resolve the health hazard. The Town Attorney read the specific items that the Town Health Officer has requested in the Order. The Health Officer emphasized that this is not a vendetta but a health and safety concern for the tenant, the minors, and an upstairs neighbor. The Town of Calais doesn't enforce the State of Vermont life safety code.

Clif Emmons and Rose Pelchuck thanked the folks involved for their efforts and emphasized the seriousness of a fire threat. Denise Wheeler made a motion to approve the proposed health order with a slight modification to include a date of a follow-up inspection by the Town Health Officer. Clif Emmons proposed a friendly amendment authorizing the Chair to sign on behalf of the entire Board of Health. Rose Pelchuck seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed 3-0 (John Brabant was absent; Sharon Winn Fannon had recused herself as noted above).

4. Adjournment: Denise Wheeler made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Health; Rose Pelchuck seconded. The motion was voted and passed.

Date: 12/18/2020 Respectfully Submitted, Katie Lane-Karnas, Recording Secretary  
*Approved by the Selectboard at the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting*

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<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XcQN8DxyOad193YCWxEv949Uhrv7oPW?usp=sharing>