

**Town of Ferrisburgh**  
**Board of Health Minutes / APPROVED**  
May 29, 2018

**Members present:** Jim Benoit, Rick Ebel, Steve Gutowski, Jessica James.

Michael Red+Muir was unable to participate because after multiple attempts an electronic connection could not be established.

**Town officials present:** Kristin DeBellis, deputy health officer, Jaimeelyn Gaboriault; health officer.

**Visitors present:** Nancy Armell, Christina Brace, Deb Brace, Lexi Brace, Lisa Brace, Scott Brace, Jim Carroll, Anna Charland, Ziggy Comeau, Robin Curler, Kim Cynewski, Lesley Deppman, Jerry Fisher, Lauren Fisher, Ricky Fisher, Tracy Fisher, Whittaney Fisher, Ron Kampner, Andy Kirkaldy, Kevin Kite, Sheila McGregor, Benjamin Putman, Bessie Sessions.

**6:30 p.m. Special meeting — call to order.**

Rick Ebel, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Steve Gutowski made a motion to reconvene as the Ferrisburgh Board of Health. Jim Benoit seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Rick Ebel stated that the board was reconvening the hearing that recessed on May 8, 2018. He asked Jaimeelyn Gaboriault, town health officer, to speak about her May 22, 2018, follow-up inspection of 2512 Sand Road, the location of Heidi's Haven, a rescue operation owned by Sheila McGregor. Jaimeelyn said Kristin DeBellis, deputy health officer, accompanied her to the inspection. Sheila McGregor and her husband, Mike Bombard, were already speaking to Brandon Hier and Garry Encarnacion, Ehrlich service specialists, about the first bait station located to the right of the garage facing the house. The group reviewed each bait station and went through the garage, the back room, the back fenced area, and the back shed. Jaimeelyn stated no evidence of feeding or rat infestation was found. Sheila and Mike covered up the marks showing rat chewing as requested. The request that the drain on the outside of the garage be filled with cement had yet to be done. At the end of the inspection, Brandon covered the pipe with mesh wiring. Ehrlich moved two bait stations to the back shed area to see if there would be any signs of rat activity there during the next inspection. When Jaimeelyn expressed concern about moving the two stations, Ehrlich offered to supply two more bait stations for free, bringing the total number of bait stations to six. Ehrlich also set a snap trap in the back shed area under a piece of lifted board. Jaimeelyn said most inside areas have the 18+clearance recommended by the pest control company but there still is debris around the property. Jaimeelyn said the pest control company highly recommended seeking access to the basement. Kristin DeBellis spoke and confirmed the details of Jaimeelyn's report. Following her remarks, Rick stated that the report and photos showed that Sheila and her husband have worked hard to try to comply with the health order.

Jaimeelyn then presented her recommendations to the board: the town continues with the health order, town representatives continue to attend inspections by the pest control company (the next one is scheduled for June 8), continued removal of dog feces, removal of debris to keep an 18+clearance from all walls and fencing, cutting of vegetation, continued plans to wind down the rescue operation and removal of dogs no later than September 30 of this year. Lesley Deppman spoke on behalf of her client, Sheila McGregor, saying that Sheila has satisfied the reasonable directives of the health order, which included contracting with a pest control company to place bait stations on the property, cleaning the garage and back shed, and removal of dog feces. She added that Exhibit I, a letter from Brandon Hier of Ehrlich, confirms the rat infestation is currently resolved.

Steve Gutowski asked Sheila McGregor where she was moving the feces. She replied to the trash, to Charlotte, and the back woods of her property. Steve said there are visible piles of feces on the property across from Sheila's house and she was observed bringing feces there. He expressed his concern that there is no plan to deal with the feces in the future.

Lesley Deppman addressed the board saying there are matters being discussed that were not required by the health order, such as access to the basement and standing water.

Rick Ebel commented that the town has received multiple emails supporting Sheila McGregor's efforts as well as other emails expressing concern over the number of dogs still on the property.

Jim Carroll, Jaimeelyn's attorney from the law firm of Carroll, Boe & Pell, addressed the board saying there is photographic evidence of a rat infestation, which includes photos of recently born rats on the Internet. He said there are still a large number of dogs, feces, and debris on Sheila McGregor's property. Jim said the health officer is asking for Ehrlich's recommendations to be followed and is looking for the health order to be continued.

After further discussion, Lesley Deppman stated that the board has no authority to continue the health order since the emergency has past and asked for the health order to be terminated.

Lauren Fisher, owner of 2494 Sand Road, the property adjacent to Sheila McGregor, stated that directive #3 of the emergency health order states "clear the animal feces from the yard." She said there is a giant mound of dog feces with green liquid running off of it in Sheila's backyard, which contributes to the smell at her home. Lauren read facts from the Animal Welfare Education website, which included statistics such as dog feces is tied for third on the list for contaminating water, contain all sorts of diseases, and spread bacteria into local water sources.

Steve Gutowski made a motion to close the hearing at 7:11 p.m. Jessica James seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Silveira