

**Minutes**  
**Pittsfield Board of Health**  
**Wednesday, February 5, 2020**  
**Pittsfield City Hall, Room 203, 6:00 PM**

Present: Chairperson Alan Kulberg; Board Members: Steve Smith, Brad Gordon,

Also Present: Health Department Director Gina Armstrong.

Convening

The meeting of the Pittsfield Board of Health was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, in room 203 of the Pittsfield City Hall. Chairperson Kulberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of January 8, 2020 and they have been approved.

Order to Demolish:

619-621 Fenn St.: Andy Cambi provided the Board with an overview of the history of the property noting that code enforcement began with a condemnation in 2019 on this two unit property. He noted that the structure is collapsing, is open to the elements and has no heat or hot water. Mr. Cambi noted that that bank indicated that they do not have legal ownership of the property and they do not intend to cure any violations. Mr. Cambi further noted that fines have been issued and there has been only one instance of contact with a representative for the property owner. He also noted that the property is not a candidate for receivership and private sale is not an option due to the condition of the property. Upon a motion made by Board Member Smith and seconded by Board Member Gordon, the Board voted and unanimously approved the Order to Demolish.

Public Hearing Local Body Art Regulations: April Shepard of Rock ‘N Ink appeared before the Board and noted that she agrees with all of the changes made to the Regulations. Ms. Shepard stated her belief that tattooing with consent should be allowed to people 16 years and up with parental consent. She noted that she has received inquiries and cited the concern of children getting tattoos in an unsafe environment. Dr. Kulberg invited other audience members to comment on this topic. Wesley LeMore of Intradermal Design appeared and noted that he did not believe that people under the age of 18, or sometimes even at the age of 18, have the mental faculties to make the decision to do something as permanent as a tattoo to their bodies. He noted that he does “cover ups” all the time. Board Member Gordon questioned whether having a parent present would make a difference. Mr. LaMore noted that the problem is that both parents may not agree, or may have a joint custody situation. He further noted that he felt more should be done to enforce home tattooing. Board Member Smith inquired as to how a tattoo could affect the health of a 16 year old, nothing that they are still growing. Mr. LaMore noted that he does not believe there to be any health risks, but noted that art work can become distorted with growth or weight gain, etc. Board Member Gordon questioned whether the risk of getting a tattoo in an unlicensed environment outweigh allowing tattoos to be received in a better environment; (i.e. would it lessen home tattooing from taking place). Both Ms. Shepard and Mr. LaMore indicated that home tattooing is common and that the materials can be bought online, YouTube videos can be watched, etc. However, Ms. Shepard further noted that there is much more to it in order to keep the client and the artist safe. Arthur Errichetto, artist at Rock ‘N Ink, noted he himself to be an example of putting tattoos on his body at ages 18-21 that he regrets, however, he also points out that although it can be costly, tattoo removal is an option. He stated that he would rather see his own children tattooed in a clean, professional environment. Ms. LaMore pointed out that the public may take offense to the

Board making such decisions for their minor children. Laurie Ke also appeared and stated that she was happy to see the amendments. Dr. Kulberg thanked the participants for their input. After some deliberation, the Board Members felt that besides receiving some potentially cosmetically unappealing art work, they were not convinced that the “underground” market is that great a problem to warrant changing the age to 16. Upon a motion made by Board Member Smith and seconded by Board Member Gordon, the Board voted unanimously to accept the amendments as presented. The effective date of the amendments will be February 5, 2020.

The Country Club Barbershop & Cigar Lounge: This matter has been tabled pending further information.

Health Department Updates:

1. Gina Armstrong reviewed the Monthly Inspections Report.
2. Gina Armstrong introduced Dominic Sondrini, an intern studying public health with the SUNY Albany graduate program. She noted that Dominic will be with the department throughout the spring and summer months and will be working on the Healthy Homes Initiative to address the high rates of asthma of people under the age of 64. The goal is to have a system in place where providers refer asthma patients to the health department and the department will offer education on how to address issues in the homes that may be attributing to asthma symptoms. Board Member Gordon noted that Berkshire Housing also has an initiative with Fallon Health that may assist in the Healthy Homes Initiative. Dr. Kulberg inquired as to how Healthy Homes can help. Ms. Armstrong noted that housing inspectors will be trained on those particular conditions that trigger asthma, and they will work with families on education and empowerment (i.e. Communication with the landlords).

Also Discussed: Gina Armstrong noted that a planning committee meeting was held this week to have a better protocol in place for issues relating to algae blooms in our local lakes.

Corona Virus: MS. Armstrong noted that the MDPH is providing a lot of information and noted that the local risk level is low. She noted that there are procedures in place with MDPH and local health departments for self-isolation in the event of any risk. Ms. Armstrong noted that personal protection is the best avenue for keeping all illnesses at bay.

Budget: Ms. Armstrong noted that a budget will be submitted next week and it will be provided to the Board Members via email.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Board Member Gordon and seconded by Board Member Smith, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Provencher, Clerk

Documents/Materials Distributed at Meeting

- Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2020
- Documents relating to 619-621 Fenn St. Order to Demolish
- Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Practice of Body Art within the City of Pittsfield
- Documents pertaining to The Country Club Barbershop & Cigar Lounge