



OFFICE OF  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
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# TOWN OF NORWELL

345 MAIN STREET  
NORWELL, MA 02061

## BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

**November 27, 2023**

**Present:**

**Peter Dillon, Chair**  
**John Carpenter, Vice Chair**  
**Natalya Davis, Clerk**  
**R. Benjamin Margro, Health Agent**  
**Tori Koch, Board of Health Administrator**

**Others in Attendance:**

**Art Lathers, Resident**  
**Godwin Aduba, Resident**  
**David Osborne, Resident**

**Meeting began at 5:20 PM**

**Approval of Agenda**

**-Clerk, Natalya Davis, motioned to approve the Agenda; revised to remove the approval of the October 30, 2023 meeting minutes. Vice Chair, John Carpenter, seconded and all approved.**

**General Discussion-Circuit Street Nuisance Complaint**

- The resident of 359 Circuit Street, Godwin Aduba, was introduced by Health Agent, R. Benjamin Margro.
- RBM located the properties for the Board on a screen as well as orienting the Board to other properties where residents have commented about their concerns about the noise.
- Clerk, Natalya Davis, asked for Mr. Lathers to re-state his concerns surrounding the noise from the fowl at 359 Circuit Street.
- Mr. Lathers reiterated his concern about the noise level, the number of animals living at 359 Circuit Street and the impact on his family.
- RBM relayed a conversation with the resident at 381 Circuit Street who is also concerned about how loud the fowl can be in Spring and Summer.
- The resident at 7 Parson's Walk contacted RBM with concerns about any expansion plans for the property.
- Chair, Peter Dillon, asked Mr. Aduba to explain his situation and any suggestions for amicably resolving any issues that have arisen.
- Mr. Aduba gave the Board his history in Norwell, his history with keeping fowl on the properties he has lived at in Norwell and the complaints they have received since moving to Circuit Street. Prior to the Health Department becoming involved, the Police and Animal Control have been called to his property. He explained that he has always managed the flock and culls excess roosters. When speaking with RBM he informed him that he was in the process of looking into having a fence installed to help reduce the noise. He has already installed a wire fence to help keep the deer out and curtail the dogs barking. He is hesitant to do another fence if it will not be helpful in reducing the noise. He would like to know exactly what the issue is? The number of animals? The fact there are animals at all? What is the solution to either of those issues? He would like suggestions for resolutions from the complainants.

- PD confirmed that the Board does not want Mr. Aduba to spend money for a solution does not work. This is a Health issue as it is affecting other residents' mental health.
- PD also explained a by-law proposed by the TA that would limit the number of roosters per every 2 acres with the exception of commercial farms. The Board is not comfortable with the by-law without having a clear definition of commercial farming.
- Vice Chair, John Carpenter, asked if Mr. Aduba could explain the history of and the relationship with the peacocks.
- JC then asked Mr. Lathers if his main issue was with the peacocks.
- Mr. Aduba explained that the peacock noise is worse during mating season which can last from March-June.
- JC asked where the roosters stay at night. Mr. Aduba explained they stay in their coop and are typically quiet during that time unless they sense a predator.
- ND is concerned about asking Mr. Aduba to expend money that may or may not fix the issue. The issue, as she sees it, seems to be stemming mostly from the roosters. She would like to come up with a resolution that will work for everyone. PD agreed.
- PD made suggestions for solutions i.e., eliminating/reducing the male birds, keeping peacocks in during the mating season, covering the pen to reduce the noise.
- Mr. Aduba asked what the Board considers a good number of male birds? If he does eliminate the male birds would that solve the problem? He also commented that it is not possible to keep them in.
- Mr. Lathers was asked if this would satisfy his concerns. He responded that when it is quiet, there is no issue, but that during mating season it will be difficult again.
- JC asked if the Board should re-visit the issue in two-three months. The other Board members agreed.

Clerk, ND, motioned to adjourn. JC seconded and all approved.

Adjournment @ 6:40 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Natalya Davis, Clerk

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

1/29/24