



Town of Hinesburg
Joe Gannon, Health Officer
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SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL

Ms Sheridan Lane
477 Gilman Road
Hinesburg, VT 05461

January 18th, 2016

CC: Town Manager, Select Board.

Dear Ms Lane,

I am writing to you as the Town Health Officer for Hinesburg about a serious problem on your property which is having adverse effects on your neighbors and constitutes a health hazard requiring immediate remediation.

It is my understanding both from reports received and also from direct observation of your property from the road that your property includes an uninhabitable building and a number of abandoned vehicles, a large amount of trash and the property lacks any septic facilities. In fact, there is no habitable structure on the property, as is usually understood by that description.

In the last month or so, perhaps because of the cold weather, numerous rats have been observed on and near your property and said rats have now migrated to your neighbors, whether from over-population, lack of food, whatever.

Specifically, a rat was found in the bureau drawer of your neighbor at 601 Gilman Road, further rats have been observed and killed on the property there and numerous new burrows have been found around that property as rats attempt to invade your neighbors residence.

Please can you contact me as soon as possible to discuss this problem and how it can be urgently remediated. In particular, I need a plan to remove any and all food sources and habitat favorable to rats breeding. This needs to be done on an emergent basis and I need to hear from you immediately. My cell phone number is 802-777-8690 and you can call me at any time.

Finally, on behalf of the town, let me offer you whatever advice and assistance we can reasonably provide. I have not, at this time, issued an "Emergency Health Order" but will do so if I do not hear from you immediately. Given the unacceptable risks of rat-bites and disease to your neighbors, who have young children, I trust you can understand the urgency.

This matter will be coming before the Select Board next Monday, Jan 25th, and I sincerely hope that I can tell the Select Board you are co-operating and a plan for remediation is being implemented.

Sincerely,

Joe Gannon. Town Health Officer, Hinesburg.

