

**Town of Sheffield  
Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2020  
Virtual Meeting**

Board Members present:           Martin Mitsoff  
  Eileen Clarke  
  Pat Levine  
  David Smith, Jr.  
  Dave Lewis

Members of the Public:           Doug Winseck

Chairman Mitsoff called the meeting to order at 2 PM.

**Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) & Berkshire School Reopening Plans:** M. Mitsoff and P. Levine attended a conference call with Brooke Humes regarding Berkshire School's reopening plans. They are considering limited class sizes, student/staff testing protocols with on-site testing equipment, face coverings, social distancing. Nothing has been received by BOH in writing regarding this plan. P. Levine noted that their international students are commenting that many feel safer in their home countries than if they were to be in the US. SBRSD has a task force working on reopening plans, which include three distinct plans: full back to school, hybrid, and full remote. Nothing has been released yet by SBRSD as the task force and its subcommittees continue to gather information and get guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

**Travel and Quarantine Guidance:** Sheffield's Select Board issued a letter requesting Governor Baker impose travel and quarantine rules, rather than guidance, to protect the progress made on bringing COVID-19 under greater control. In particular, travel from states outside the Northeast that have not managed the crisis should be required to quarantine on arriving in Massachusetts. Enforcement difficulties would be associated with any such regulations. BOH has also drafted a memorandum for all Town employees regarding travel and quarantine protocols, and this will be broadened for all Sheffield residents.

**Strategic Demolition Fund Application:** Chairman Mitsoff informed everyone that the Town's application for match funding of demolition costs for 627 S. Main was rejected by the Strategic Demolition Fund. Although the Town had been informed that the application could be submitted after demolition, the final decision was made on the basis that the demolition had already been undertaken. The match would have amounted to approximately \$6,600.

**Update on Food Inspections:** M. Mitsoff discussed updates he received from Sally Munson, Food Inspector. Sally has done check-in inspections for COVID-19 protocols and regulations at MarketPlace Café and the Sheffield Farmers' Market; her agenda includes The Bridge, Blue Door Cafe and Stagecoach Inn, and she will report any significant findings in a subsequent discussion.

**Approval of Prior Minutes:** P. Levine made a motion to approve, subject to a minor amendment on update for BPHA, correcting name; seconded by Eileen Clarke. P. Levine, M. Mitsoff and E. Clarke voted to approve, with two abstentions (D. Lewis and D. Smith).

**Board Member Items:** P. Levine stated that a question regarding a possible hairdresser business in Ashley Falls had been resolved; E. Clarke inquired about a site visit made by Scott Smith to a property where a failed septic test had previously occurred and where BOH letters regarding the seriousness of the situation had gone unanswered. M. Mitsoff said that he would check with Scott for an update.

**Public Inquiries:** Doug Winseck inquired about activities at 1450 Boardman Street, and whether the mobile home located there is classified as a mobile home or a camper. M. Mitsoff stated that the owner is undertaking improvements to his parcel; the Conservation Commission has met with owner, who is working on a Request for Determination of Applicability regarding site improvements; to M. Mitsoff's knowledge, no building permit has been issued. M. Mitsoff stated D. Winseck had stated in recent Conservation Commission meeting that owner was living there full-time; M. Mitsoff stated he had spoken with owner, who assured him that neither he nor anyone else was living there full-time but occasionally staying overnight after working on the property. Owner stated that he is working on getting water to the site, and that he will cooperate with BOH regarding installation, inspection and approval of sanitary facilities as he proceeds to live on the property full-time. D. Winseck then inquired whether the owner had to do anything with the driveway the owner has created; E. Clarke stated that would not be up to the Board of Health. D. Smith stated that nothing could be built on the property without a curb cut, so owner would need to apply for a curb cut; there are no specific requirements regarding the condition of a driveway as long as there was not excessive runoff and debris caused by the driveway condition. D. Winseck then asked about observations regarding oil spillage on the property; M. Mitsoff stated that he and members of the Conservation Commission noted small spills of what appeared to be an oil-based substance, but in quantities not inconsistent with the use of heavy machinery at a construction site and nothing that appeared to impose an immediate threat to health and safety that would require reporting to the Department of Environmental Protection. D. Winseck asked if we had asked the owner to address the spills; the Conservation Commission has asked the owner to address the leakages. After further discussion, M. Mitsoff noted that he has had conversations with the owner seeking his cooperation in adhering to MA and local laws, and that if either the BOH or the Conservation Commission learn of evidence that these laws are being violated, that we have a duty to enforce those laws to the fullest extent.

Motion to adjourn was made by P. Levine, seconded by D. Lewis; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by M. Mitsoff, Chair.