

**Town of Sheffield
Board of Health
Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2020
2:00 PM
Virtual Meeting**

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

Other Present: Members of the Public

Chairman Mitsoff called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Town Reopening Plans: M. Mitsoff discussed Senior Center reopening plans. There are currently no senior center reopening in the Commonwealth, but in response to interest from patrons, a limited reopening is being considered that would involve appointments for two-hour intervals, and exercise/stretch classes limited to nine (9) persons and the instructor, with a sign up required. Basement would be closed off from use. Looking into purchasing plastic chairs that could be easily cleaned. Card games were considered, but K. Loring has concerns since cards change hands and patrons can't socially distance. Decision made to not offer card games. Social distancing and face coverings required. Plastic shields will be installed to prevent patrons from physical interaction

M. Mitsoff stated he thought Town Hall was supposed to reopen this week but Select Board must consider further with R. LaBombard as to preparedness in the face of social distancing

Per P. Levine, Library is open for perusing books (Wed and Sat) and patrons must sign in. Reservations are required for using computer equipment. M. Harwood asked whether books get thrown away after they're used; could cards for a card game be so quarantined; P. Levine discussed quarantine of books, and M. Mitsoff discussed unrealistic prospect of quarantining cards as they're being played.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) & Berkshire School Reopening Plans: M. Mitsoff discussed his/E. Clarke's meeting with Superintendent B. Regulbuto, principal J. Carpenter, and school nurse J. Moran. Hybrid learning plan is to be used, as approved. School administration is working on positive case metrics that will determine. BOH believes the number of cases should be very, very low (for example, one or two cases for students/faculty members within, say, a week should lead to some modification of the reopening plan. M. Mitsoff then discussed plans for developing communications between

Athletics to be offered include soccer (modified playing rules), baseball, golf and cross country (using wave starting to stagger run starts), with practices at school only

outdoors, weather permitting (no practices indoors). M. Mitsoff discussed BOH order that would close the school grounds to the general public Mondays thru Fridays of each school week for the purposes of maintaining the health and safety of students, faculty and staff (other than by appointment).

No revised definitive plan for the reopening of Berkshire School have been received.

MA Early Education / Support for Families Engaged in Remote Learning: M. Mitsoff discussed the latest regulations from the governor that will create obligations for towns to support remote education opportunities, including certifications and monitoring of these activities. Further guidance is supposed to be forthcoming from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and other Commonwealth departments. P. Levine then discussed joint effort being undertaken by Berkshire South, Greenagers, and others to conduct outdoor learning for groups of students when they are not in school, and using webinar technology to assist, for the purposes of assisting parents that cannot modify their work schedules that have students that cannot attend school.

Recent Inspections: M. Mitsoff gave brief updates on a failed Title V inspection for which the owner has not communicated back to the BOH regarding the need for septic system replacement; and a housing inspection conducted last Spring that requires a follow up based on the associated court mediation order. M. Mitsoff also discussed a recent health inspection conducted with Elder Services. P. Levine stated there could be a health hazard issue with an abandoned house in Ashley Falls, but does not know the status of the property. M. Mitsoff will discuss with P. Levine to determine any next steps.

Board Member Items: E. Clarke asked M. Mitsoff about a business in town for which the BOH has received recent complaints. M. Mitsoff stated that he had been informed that a local retailer was the subject of complaints regarding employees not wearing face coverings and asking customers wearing face coverings why they were wearing face coverings (thus intimidating or otherwise shaming customers who were complying). M. Mitsoff stated that he had had a conversation with the owner in late April and that the owner would not willingly comply with the regulations as they '...had a business to run...'. Given the recent complaints, M. Mitsoff stated that he was working to enlist assistance from the Division of Local Services or the Department of Public Health to notify the owner of the Commonwealth's requirements and take necessary action to have the business become compliant. M. Mitsoff will share resources with BOH members regarding the state assisting us in these matters.

Approval of Prior Minutes: Minutes have not been prepared..

Public Inquiries: None.

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

Respectfully submitted by M. Mitsoff, Chair.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Mitsoff", is written over a horizontal line.