

**Town of Sheffield
Board of Health (BOH)
Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Board Members present: Martin Mitsoff, Chair
 Eileen Clarke
 Dave Lewis
 Pat Levine

Others in Attendance: Lori Neil, Administrative Assistant
 Jayne Smith, Registered Sanitarian

Members of the Public:

Chairman Mitsoff called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

Chairman Mitsoff introduced Jayne Smith, Registered Sanitarian and Health Agent for Alford. Jayne reviewed the septic system fundamentals. J. Smith gave acknowledgment to Sandra Martin who also works in Public Health in the Southern Berkshires. J. Smith gave an overview of the complete Title 5 Septic System requirements. System inspectors are licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection. She shared her computer screen with the Board members to show the two compartment septic tanks, effluent filters and the pump tank. The effluent filters strain out the solids before the waste water goes to the septic system. The whole point of this is to protect the ground water. She reviewed the inspection process and the best practices. The septic pumping records were discussed. Hydraulic failure signs are black stone or soils, ponding or very green grass. J. Smith explained if a septic tank has been pumped four times within a year, it is an automatic failure. The current owners of the property are always the responsible party. It was a very informative presentation on Title 5 and the Board expressed its appreciation to Jayne Smith.

Discussion/Possible Action regarding a Public Health Excellence Grant program for shared services. It is a grant application offered through the Department Of Public Health. This is for Boards to help determine of what we think the most important priorities are in Public Health. Chairman Mitsoff mentioned our Board of Health could reach out to other communities or regional resources to see how we can improve the delivery of public health for example in Sheffield. Chairman Mitsoff mentioned he had a brief phone call from Jim Willis from Tri-Town Health, regarding putting in a grant application which funds up to \$300,000 a year up to 12 years. The criteria for awarding the grant will be competitive. Sheffield has nursing services through the Berkshire Health Alliance and the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association for which we sign an agreement every year. The public health nurses have been stretched beyond the imagination since Covid-19. Leslie Gregor has 22 communities to cover and a full time job. Nancy Slattery who is Sheffield's public nurse, covers 10 towns and also has a full time job. As an extension of Tri-Town health, J. Willis wants to focus on funding for a public health nurse or two nurses, or, administrative staff or an LPN. It would be

dedicated to our immediate vicinity. This is an opportunity for someone who is more localized, who can do home visits, who can coordinate other health related issues to the Board of Health to provide our residents with much more. E. Clarke mentioned J. Willis is very confident that he would get the funding. He understands the grant procedures and requirements very clearly. Chairman Mitsoff stated, he thinks we should move ahead to get dedicated grant funding for a public health nurse if we are all in agreement.

Board Member Items – Chairman Mitsoff announced Berkshire School will not be providing overnight camps this year on campus. There will be day camps but no overnight camps.

Meeting minutes – Pat Levine made a motion to approve the February 9, 2021 draft meeting minutes. E. Clarke seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

There was discussion regarding vaccine lotteries and if masks should be worn even if you are fully vaccinated. Chairman Mitsoff stated, at this point, it is very important to continue to wear masks and to social distance.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2021.

E. Clarke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. P. Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori Neil".

Lori Neil, Administrative Assistant

Documents

Draft minutes

Power Point Presentation of Title 5 by Jayne Smith