

Town of Sheffield
Board of Health
Town Hall-First Floor Meeting Room
January 10, 2023
5:30 pm

Members Present: Pat Levine, Chair
Scott Smith
Joshua Webb

Members Absent: Eileen Clarke
Lauren Hyde

Others Present: Members of the Public

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:44 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

S. Smith made a motion to approve the October 11, 2022 and November 8, 2022 minutes as written, seconded by J. Webb. The motion carried 3-0.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Berkshire Bounty Food Waste Reclamation Program:

Chair Levine deferred the matter to the next meeting.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Local Public Health Guide:

Chair Levine suggested the Board review the guide from the Massachusetts Health Office Association and offered to send them the link.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Final Version of License and Inspection Fees:

Chair Levine stated that the license and inspection fees for 2023 are final.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Septic Inspector Payment Increase:

The Board discussed that the inspector is currently being paid \$40 per Title V inspection and \$100 for a perc test witness. Jayne Smith stated that the inspector in New Marlborough receives \$100 per Title V inspection and the inspector in Alford receives \$180 per inspection. There was discussion on the fees that are paid to the towns and the time it takes to witness an inspection. Chair Levine stated that they do not have a quorum of the Board to vote on the matter since S. Smith would need to recuse himself from the vote. Jayne Smith suggested asking what the fees are for electrical and building inspections and what percentage the inspectors are paid. Chair Levine stated she would follow up on that. It was the consensus of the Board to table the matter to the next meeting.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Election of an Alternate to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance:

Chair Levine stated that the Board has discussed the need for an alternate to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance in case she is unable to attend a meeting. The matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Mini-Grant for \$3,500 from the Alliance:

Chair Levine stated that the Board discussed the Mini-Grant that towns can apply for through the Berkshire Public Health Alliance and asked about potential requests that could be made. The matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding FY2024 Budget:

Chair Levine stated that in the FY23 budget the \$5,000 in the office supply line item was supposed to be in the contracted services line item. She stated that the \$5,000 is the Visiting Nurse Association money that will pay the Health Collaborative.

Variance Request for Septic System – 1742 Home Road:

Al Thorp from Accord Engineering discussed the proposed septic system upgrade and variance request for 1742 Home Road. He stated the abutter's notification informing them of the matter was sent certified mail. He explained that the Title V inspection failed due to back-up of sewage into facility and that part of the system is below high groundwater elevation. The proposed system upgrade would mitigate the reasons for failure. Mr. Thorp stated he is requesting two variance requests, minimum setback distance from system to property line (5 feet) and depth to groundwater (1.61 feet). There was discussion on the proposed upgrade and variance requests. S. Smith made a motion to approve the septic upgrade plan as submitted and to grant the two variance requests for 1742 Home Road, seconded by J. Webb. The motion carried 3-0.

Al Thorp stated that the approval of variance needs to be in writing and posted for 30 days in Town Hall. Chair Levine stated that she will write the approval.

Board Member Items:

Chair Levine stated the office received 360 COVID tests from the State. She will be distributing them to town buildings.

Chair Levine stated she will be attending a training seminar in February for the new housing code requirements. She encouraged other members to attend if interested.

Public Comment:

Jayne Smith discussed asking the Select Board about giving opioid settlement funds to the South County Recovery Center. It was the consensus of the Board to write a formal request to the Select Board.

J. Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by S. Smith. The motion carried 3-0.

Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jill Hughes
Assistant Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at the meeting:
Draft Meeting Minutes
FY2024 Budget
Variance Request-Septic System 1742 Home Road

*Board of Health
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