

Town of Sheffield
Board of Health
Town Hall-First Floor Meeting Room
March 21, 2023
5:30 pm

Members Present: Pat Levine, Chair
Joshua Webb
Eileen Clarke
Lauren Hyde

Members Absent: Scott Smith

Others Present: Jayne Smith, Health Inspector
Josh Risen, Board Administrator

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

E. Clark made a motion to approve the February 14, 2023 minutes as written, seconded by L. Hyde. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes for January 10, 2023 will be tabled until the April 11, 2023 meeting.

Discussion regarding the proposed Tiny House bylaw:

Chair Levine began by discussing different methods of disposing of grey water. J. Smith gave a proposed revision to the Tiny House bylaw. J. Smith stated that the Tiny House bylaw should include the following, Tiny homes may apply to the Board of Health to use a composting toilet and greywater system to reduce the size and cost of a septic system, provided it complies with Massachusetts Title 5 (310 CMR 15.000) regulations and Chapter 2 of the State Sanitary Code (105 CMR 410.000). Composting toilets are also subject to plumbing code.

J. Smith also informed the Board that pursuant to the new Housing Code (to be in effect April 1, 2023) there will be significant changes to single-family residence regulations. Some of the changes will allow for owner-occupied dwelling units to reduce their expenses by no longer requiring them to have both hot and cold running water. The new Code allows for the use of incinerating or composting toilets, as well as modified heating systems. A discussion regarding setting up a joint meeting between the Board of Health and the Planning Board ensued. *L. Hyde made a motion for the Board of Health to meet with the Planning Board as soon as is reasonably possible to discuss the proposed Tiny House bylaw, seconded by E. Clarke. The motion passed unanimously.*

Update on Permit Eyes Status:

Chair Levine stated that she had spoken with J. Risen about what steps have been taken regarding this matter and what is required to get Sheffield onto the PermitEyes system. Chair Levine informed the Board that they have been requested to meet with the Select Board on

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March 30, 2023 at 3:30 PM to address any potential concerns with adopting the new system. She requested that J. Smith be present for the March 30th meeting as she is the expert on the system. J. Smith agreed, but wanted to get a written list of the issues to be addressed ahead of time so that she could be prepared.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Berkshire Bounty Food Waste Reclamation

Program:

L. Hyde informed the Board that she had compiled a list of restaurants and businesses that she felt were the best candidates to approach for donations, and that she would provide an update at the next meeting.

Announcement of the Berkshire County Boards of Health Associations 2023 Spring

Dinner:

Chair Levine read the letter announcing the Spring Dinner and specified that this would be a great opportunity for board members to network with other professionals who also work in the field of public health. L. Hyde stated that she would like to become more involved in these types of networking opportunities, but that she felt it would be wise for a couple of the members to attend together.

Discussion/Action regarding nomination of the Animal Inspector:

Chair Levine moved to approve Cassie Keeley's nomination to be the Animal Inspector, seconded by E. Clarke. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member items:

J. Webb stated that he was happy about the prospect of meeting with the Planning Board to discuss the proposed tiny house bylaw.

L. Hyde requested guidance from Chair Levine concerning what networking opportunities she felt were going to provide the best benefit and which emails she should focus on as she is receiving a large amount of communications.

L. Hyde attended a virtual meeting by Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative on March 17, 2023. The point of the meeting was to assess where the participating towns ranked in their foundational public health services and to provide funding based upon the findings. L. Hyde informed the Board that it was difficult to understand the substance of the meeting because the speakers were using abbreviations and not explaining things. J. Smith explained that the State has not been properly funding public health in our region and as such many of the participating towns are well below standards. J. Smith further explained that this is an opportunity for more resources to be brought into Sheffield. Chair Levine thanked J. Smith for all of her hard work and expressed a hope that with the increase in funding that J. Smith will soon have a permanent position with a title and not have to cobble together multiple sources of funding to perform her duties.

L. Hyde informed the Board that she is doing research into what can be done about the "falling down buildings" in Sheffield as she sees them as eyesores and wants to either fix them or see them razed. A discussion about the role that the Board of Health has with regard to dilapidated

building ensued.

L. Hyde indicated that she wanted to discuss emergency disaster preparedness given the size of the most recent snow storm that impacted Sheffield. E. Clarke identified that there were several areas and resources available, she listed that the Senior Center, Library, and Firehouse were all open to the public during the storm. A discussion regarding disaster preparedness ensued.

E. Clarke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J. Webb. The motion passed unanimously

Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Josh Risen', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Josh Risen
Board Administrator

Documents reviewed at the meeting:

- Draft Meeting Minutes
- Draft – Tiny House Bylaw

Sheffield Board of Health

Date: March 21, 2023

PLEASE PRINT: Your Name

Street, Town

1. Jayne Smith 463 Silver St, Shf.

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