

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF HEALTH
MAY 9, 2023
TOWN HALL FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
5:30 PM
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Pat Levine, Chair
Joshua Webb
Lauren Hyde

Members Absent: Scott Smith
Eileen Clarke

Others Present: Josh Risen, Board Administrator
Members of the Public

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Update/Discussion regarding the food waste partnership with Berkshire Bounty:

L. Hyde stated that she did not get a great response from the community. However, she was able to get in touch with Stagecoach Tavern and Berkshire School to inform them about the waste partnership.

Chair Levine discussed a Berkshire Regional Planning Commission project designed to bring mobile food markets to areas that are considered food deserts. A discussion occurred regarding whether Sheffield could be considered a food desert since there is only one food retailer. Chair Levine stated that she thought that the mobile food market may be a good project for J. Webb to look into. J. Webb agreed.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Water Pressure Issue at Southern Berkshire Regional School District:

Chair Levine discussed the letter she wrote to Dr. Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) dated April 27, 2023 regarding an issue with a pump that caused the toilets to not flush. The letter requested that SBRSD keep the Board of Health updated on public health issues. She also stated that the letter's intent was to improve communication between the Board and the SBRSD and requested quarterly meetings.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative Quarterly Report:

Chair Levine presented the report of the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative and asked members to review it. She would like to see data on diseases from tick bites in the next report and if anyone had suggestions she would like to discuss them at the next meeting.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Housing Complaint – 46 Main Street:

Chair Levine updated the Board regarding a housing complaint at 46 Main Street. Chair Levine stated that she contacted the Berkshire Public Health Alliance (BPHA) to conduct an inspection and Inspector Ned Saviski submitted a written description of the violations and a Correction Order. The landlord was present and stated that she has hired a contractor to perform the required work to be compliant with the housing code. J. Webb asked if tenants were still living in the apartment, she responded yes. Chair Levine stated that the Board needed to be careful about interjecting into a landlord/tenant issues.

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Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2023:

Minutes were tabled to the next meeting.

Review/Discussion of Mail:

Chair Levine identified what came in the mail to the Board.

Board Member items:

L. Hyde stated that she was asked to discuss the Toxic Dump in Lee. The Housatonic River cleanup project is storing the dredged polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs in Lee and transporting them through the surrounding communities. J. Webb stated that Sheffield is down river from the cleanup and expressed his concerns with the negative effect. Chair Levine suggested that the Board invite Rene Wood from the Select Board to attend the next meeting to give an update. L. Hyde stated that Lee conducted an investigation about the dangers posed by transporting these types of chemicals and it was determined that transporting them could cause potential danger to communities. Chair Levine responded that no one knows what the trains in Sheffield are transporting and that may be another concern worth investigating.

Chair Levine stated that Chief Munson will be at the next meeting and stated that the transportation of potentially dangerous materials through town could be discussion included with Disaster Preparedness.

J. Webb stated that he wanted to discuss the Tiny Homes grey water septic system requirements. He attended the Planning Board meeting last week and reported that the Planning Board took the position that they are not responsible for septic systems as they are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health. J. Webb stated that in the new revised housing code, Boards of Health are able to issue a variance on septic systems that would let applicants use alternative grey water solutions outside of what is required under Title 5. Chair Levine stated that according to Scott Smith, Sanitation Inspector, there are no alternatives to the greywater requirements under Title 5 for new construction. Chair Levine asked J. Webb to do more research into the alternatives and to discuss them at the next meeting. She also suggested that J. Webb reach out to other Sanitation Inspectors to see if they have dealt with this issue.

Chair Levine informed the Board that the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative (SBPHC) has received a grant for approximately \$200,000.00 for funding to hire new inspectors that would be available to all towns, and to create a permanent full time position for Jayne Smith.

Chair Levine 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:


Josh Risen
Board Administrator

Documents reviewed at the meeting:

- Draft Meeting Minutes
- Letter to SBRSD
- SBPHC Quarterly Report
- Correction Order for 46 Main Street Housing Complain

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