

Town of Sheffield
Board of Health
Town Hall-First Floor Meeting Room
November 8, 2022
5:30 pm

Members Present: Pat Levine, Chair
Scott Smith
Lauren Hyde
Joshua Webb

Members Absent: Eileen Clarke

Others Present: Jayne Smith, Food Inspector

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

It was the consensus of the Board to table the minutes to the next meeting.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Advisory on Feeding Bears:

Chair Levine stated that the Animal Control Officer (ACO) requested authority to enforce residents intentionally feeding bears and that the Board has the authority to create an advisory. She discussed the recent issues with residents leaving their bird feeders up. Chair Levine stated that the Select Board reviewed a proposed Bylaw at their meeting last night and after discussion decided not to approve it. S. Smith stated that the State has regulations and enforces the feeding of wildlife. Jayne Smith suggested the Board review what the Town of Great Barrington recently passed. It was the consensus of the Board to take no further action on the matter at this time.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Approval of Revised Fee Schedule:

Chair Levine stated that the Select Board reviewed and discussed the revised fee schedule at their meeting last night and they asked for further clarification. Some of the concerns were the differences in some permit fees for similar permits, clarification for temporary events/farmers market/farm stands, and increases of some permits. Jayne Smith stated that she has not received any feedback from the Select Board or Town Administrator. Chair Levine discussed the Select Board's concerns regarding the Permit Eyes system for the Board of Health for 2023 licenses as it is too late to get the program up and running and there is no clerk for the Board to train. She stated that the Town Administrator's Office will be sending out the renewal letters and issuing licenses for the Board. The Board discussed authorizing Chair Levine and J. Webb to work with Jayne Smith on the fee schedule. L. Hyde made a motion that the Board authorize Chair Levine and J. Webb to work with Jayne Smith on the necessary changes to the fee schedule for 2023, seconded by S. Smith. The motion carried 4-0.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Approval of Violation Letters:

The Board reviewed two draft letters to Jesse Bunce and Allan Joyner regarding their non-compliance State Environmental Code Title 5, and 310 CMR 15.018 Disposal System Installer's Permit for work at 20 Hillside Lane. S. Smith made a motion to approve the letters as written, seconded by J. Webb. The motion carried 3-0, L. Hyde abstained from the vote.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Approval for Two Conference Related Meal Expenses:

Chair Levine asked the Board to approve two conference related meal expenses that total \$54.92 so she can submit for reimbursement from the Town. J. Webb made a motion to approve Chair Levine's two meal expenses in the amount of \$54.92, seconded by L. Hyde. The motion carried 4-0.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Revisions to the Reimbursement for Inspectors:

Chair Levine stated that the Board briefly discussed increasing the amount that Inspectors are paid. Jayne Smith explained that the increase would need to be approved at Town Meeting. She found the Warrant from the last Town Meeting and read the Article. Inspectors for the Board of Health are currently being paid \$40 per Title V inspection and \$100 for a perc test witness. Jayne Smith suggested the Board review the fee schedule and suggested \$90 or \$100 for a Title V inspection and \$150 for a per test witness. Chair Levine suggested asking other towns what they pay their Inspectors. L. Hyde offered to reach out to the Town Administrator to discuss the process for increasing what the Inspectors are paid and bring it back to the Board.

Discussion on Water Quality Monitoring:

Chair Levine stated that she attended a meeting with Don Ward, Conservation Commission Chair and Don Roeder, Conservation Commission member to discuss monitoring water quality and providing information to the public. She stated that the Housatonic Valley Association has been sampling water for testing from the Konkapot and Housatonic Rivers.

Board Member Items:

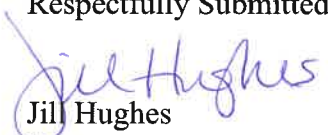
Chair Levine stated that she signed up for a housing code change webinar on November 29th and encouraged other members to also sign up. Jayne Smith stated that they are anticipating a lot of homeless people and people living in temporary housing this winter. Chair Levine informed the Board that a complaint was received about someone living in a mobile home with no sanitation facilities. She stated that she and Building Inspector Paul Greene drove by the site and noticed there is also a house on the property. She will keep the Board informed about the matter.

Chair Levine stated that the Select Board is taking action on marijuana odor complaints and have decided to hire an odor specialist. She also stated that one of the marijuana growers was also going to hire an odor specialist. Chair Levine stated that the Select Board has also presented an Amendment to the Zoning Bylaws regarding marijuana that would only allow retail. There was discussion on the Bylaws that were passed at Town Meeting being submitted late to the Attorney General's Office.

J. Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by P. Levine. The motion carried 4-0.

Chair Levine adjourned the meeting at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Jil Hughes
Assistant Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at the meeting:

Draft Meeting Minutes

Draft BOH 2023 Fee Schedule

Letters to J. Bunce and A. Joyner

Reimbursement Form from P. Levine