



Town of Sandisfield

Board of Health

66 Sandisfield Rd, Suite 5

Sandisfield, MA 01255

Sandisfield Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 @ 5:30 pm
Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Rd, Sandisfield, MA
With Zoom Option

Present in Person: Keith Larson (BOH Chair), Brigitte Ruthman (BOH), Steve Rubenstein (BOH), Jason Dragonetti (Agent), Jayne Smith (SBPHC)
David VanArsdale, Platt, David Mouthop, Chris Bragdon, Ron Pachulski, Ellen Hill

1. Meeting Minutes

- a) **Approval of Minutes from November 15, 2023 Meeting** (Discussion/Vote): Brigitte Ruthman made a motion to approve the November 15, 2023 minutes. Steve Rubenstein seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

The October 11th, 2023 meeting minutes will be placed on the January agenda.

2. New Business

- a) **241 Sandisfield Rd: Winterization Plan:** Jason Dragonetti explained that there was a house on the property that needed a new septic system. A permit was pulled by Mike Parsons to replace the system. Mcateer excavating was hired by the property owner to install the system, but never was issued the permit to begin installation nor had applied for a permit to install septic systems in the Town of Sandisfield. When we were notified by Mike Parsons that this system had started to be installed and that there were problems with the installation, Jason sent a cease-and-desist letter to Mcateer and to meet us out at the site. Issues with the installation include that the septic system, d-box and field are all located in the wrong portion of the property and at the wrong elevation, the site has been inundated with runoff. Mcateer was ordered to install tank ballasts to the septic tank in its current location and to install an alarm system so that the owner can use the existing new septic tank as a tight tank for the winter during the limited time the owner is at the site over the winter. The homeowner has been advised to limit water use to the extent possible to avoid backup into the house.

The homeowner, David VanArsdale, has not heard from Mcateer since they had left the site. There is already \$25,000 spent on this property so far and the homeowner would like to get this finished.

- b) **Possible action against Mcateer Excavation:** Discussion was had to what action the BOH should take against the contractor, if any, due to the components being installed in the wrong place, being installed without a DSCP license for the system and being installed without a valid license to install septic systems in the Town of Sandisfield. Mcateer has submitted an installer application with the wrong fee. Jayne Smith suggested that next steps would be to issue a permit for 2023 Installer's License to allow Mcateer to put ballast and alarm on the tank and consider issuing a site-specific 2024 Installer's license to only for the installation of this site.

Steve Rubenstein made a motion to ratify the correction order issued by Jason Dragonetti to Mcateer on 11/29/23. Brigitte Ruthman seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Brigitte Ruthman made a motion that the contractor complete the job in a workmanship manner by the end of spring 2024, weather permitting, with the understanding that fines may be issued if not completed under non-criminal disposition. Additionally, the water table needs to be confirmed prior to installation of the new field. Steve Rubenstein second the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

- c) **Special Permit Application:** Kurt and Aviva Will, 40 Viets Rd (M44 L45.2). Steve Rubenstein made a motion that the BOH does not have any issues with this permit as long as they continue to follow applicable septic and well regulations. Brigitte Ruthman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- d) **FY25 Budget:** Jayne Smith presented a level funded budget for FY25. Steve Rubenstein asked whether Sandisfield had an animal control officer at this point. Jayne Smith passed out the policy for EBT direct deposit for the BOH stipend. Any unspent funds will go back to the taxpayers.

Steve Rubenstein made a motion to accept the proposed FY25 Budget. Brigitte Ruthman seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

3. **Old Business**

- a) **Update on 12 W Hubbard Rd Housing:** Jason Dragonetti presented that he and Jayne Smith will be joining Town Council at housing court on Wednesday, December 20, 2024. The process of housing court was explained to the BOH.
- b) **Clerk Position:** Keith Larson shared that he had someone interested in the position. Jayne Smith suggested that Keith have the applicant apply with Janey Beardsley.

4. **Agent Updates**

- Jason Dragonetti shared that field work is starting to slow down.
- Jayne Smith shared that we are working on annual renewals as well as an invoice for the Town of Sandisfield.

5. **BOH Member Updates**

- Steve Rubenstein thanked Jayne Smith for getting information on to
- No update on 12 Dodd Road. Jayne Smith explained that the residents/owner have to get their water winterized and there will be more information at the next meeting.

6. **Citizen Speak Time**

- Ellen Hill, from 15 S. Sandisfield Rd, expressed concern about the septic upgrade at 17 S. Sandisfield Rd and was wondering if permits had been issued and also whether the contractor, Paul Giardina, was licensed in the Town of Sandisfield. Jayne Smith confirmed that they have an approved plan and that they have an installers license. Ellen Hill was concerned that the septic system was not installed properly in the early 2000s and that another nearby field was built too close to her septic system. Ellen asked whether there is a way to be kept in the loop and Jayne replied that there isn't a mechanism for us to give regular updates.
- Ellen Hill had some questions about beavers and is upset that two beavers had been removed from a nearby property. Jayne Smith explained that the BOH does get involved with emergency beaver removals outside of trapping season.

7. **Topics Not Anticipated by the Board:** None

Brigitte Ruthman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Keith Larson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.