

**MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 08, 2024**

SHERRIE KENNEDY, called the meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Health to order. Notice of the meeting was given pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. Written notice was sent to two newspapers, the Gloucester County Times and the Sentinel. A copy of the written notice was given to the Township Clerk and posted on the bulletin board.

Salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Member	Present	Excused	Absent
Rene Pandola	X		
David Scales		X	
Dan Kozak	X		
Diana Salvadori	X		
Cncl. Denise Adams	X		
Sherrie Kennedy	X		
Ben Jones	X		
Debra Valcourt-Sherman	X		
Stephanie Dungee	X		
Sherri McIlvaine	X		

SHERRI MCILVAINE: Stated that **DAVID SCALES** was absent from this meeting and she received an email from him stating he was resigning from the Board due to too many other obligations.

PUBLIC PORTION:

SHERRIE KENNEDY: Asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. **BEN JONES** made a motion to open the meeting to the public, **DIANA SALVADORI** 2nd the motion, all members agreed and the meeting was open to the public.

SHERRY KENNEDY: Asked the person in attendance to state her name, address and reason for the visit.

IRENE SCHWARTZ (MAIDEN NAME WAS FLOOD) she resides at 108 Buckhorn Drive in Williamstown. She stated she had a question about Bamboo. She asked if the Township is going to make every person or business that has Bamboo on it get rid of it. She asked if the Township was going to make that a law or ordinance. She further stated that it seems as though the only time it is addressed is when someone complains about it. She stated that the bamboo that is in the front of her neighbor has been there since she moved in, in 2003. She stated there is none on her property but she has people asking her to find out about it because it is all over Winslow Road, Corkery Lane and Malaga Road.

SHERRI MCILVAINE: Stated that there is an ordinance in reference to bamboo it is an evasive plant but there is no law that states you cannot have it. You can have it you just have to be maintain it and cannot encroach the surrounding neighbors or business properties. She stated that she has instructions for anyone who wishes to keep it on how to prevent it from traveling onto neighboring properties. Again, she stated that there is no law against it just the ordinance that states that it has to be maintained. Sherri then proceeded to let Irene know that she can call her office she can email her the ordinance and the instructions on how to maintain it.

IRENE SCHWARTZ: Stated that she just doesn't understand why if one person complains and gives false statements about it that the Township comes down on them but there is so much of it around the town that is not being addresses.

SHERRI MCILVAINE: Stated that we do not drive around town looking for bamboo violations but if they receive a complaint she types of the complaint and sends out an inspector to take photos, she then sends out a violation to who every owns the property and then they go forward from there.

IRENE SCHWARTZ: Stated that it grows like grass and she knows it helps the soil because she has done a lot of research on it. So, she was just wondering if the Township is going to make a law or that it only gets addressed if someone complains about it.

SHERRI MCILVAINE: Stated that you have to bring it to the Township's attention. Sherri asked Irene if that was her only issue and Irene stated yes, she likes the Township, her development and her neighbors she has no problem with them. Irene stated that she does not like some things that go on in the Township and she stated that it seems as though it goes by who you know. Sherri asked Irene if she has a problem with Bamboo and is it encroaching on her property and Irene said no.

SHERRY KENNEDY: Stated if Irene sees a problem with it that she can get the address and report it to the Board of Health and it will get addressed. Irene stated she has no problem with other people's properties she just stated that she knows there is an issue in her neighborhood and she stated that she didn't know if it was good to say because her neighbor was in the room.

SHERRI MCILAVIANE: Stated that we could not discuss that topic because it is pending litigation.

IRENE SCHWARTZ: Stated she would stay and discuss the matter with Sherri after the meeting.

SHERRI MCILVAINE: Stated that the Board will still need to close the public portion of the meeting. Irene said that was fine.

SHERRY KENNEDY: Asked for a motion to close the Public portion of the meeting. **DEBRA VALCOURT-SHERMAN** made a motion to close the Public Portion of the meeting, **RENE PANDOLA** 2nd the motion, all members agreed and the public portion of the meeting was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

SHERRIE KENNEDY: Asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from April 10, 2024 meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Health.

DEBRA VALCOURT-SHERMAN made a motion to approve the minutes from the April of 2024, the motion was seconded by **BEN JONES**. All members agreed to approving the minutes.

SHERRIE KENNEDY: The total cash settlement for **April of 2024** was **\$4,893.36**

REPORTS:

SHERRI MCILVAINE: The only thing she had to report on was that **DAVID SCALES** has resigned from the Board as he has too much on his plate at this time. She stated she did report that to the Clerk's Office so if anyone knows anyone who may be interested to please let her know.

DAN KOZAK: Nothing to report.

RENE PANDOLA: Stated that she has a Bamboo question she has a neighbor who has bamboo, Sherri asked if it is encroaching on her property and Rene said not yet but that is not her issue she is speaking about the one she had made a complaint about in a prior meeting. She stated the SPM Farms on Tuckahoe Road and Dan had went out there before. The gentleman who owns the business owns a few of the houses there that he lets his workers live in and he does keep the property very nice but he planted fresh bamboo on the property and he was going to sell it. She stated that she drives up and down Tuckahoe all the time and today she noticed that he made another line of it on the front of his property and Sherri asked if it was his property and Rene stated that he is the owner of SPM farms and she is presuming he owns that property too. Sherri stated that you are allowed to have it as long as it is on your property. Rene stated that she thought you were not allowed to plant more you could just maintain what was already there.

DAN KOZAK: Stated the read the ordinance, you are allowed to have it, it just has to be maintained. **SHERRI** Stated that, that is how she read it but she will look at the ordinance again.

DIANA SALVADORI: Thanked Sherri for addressing the issues she brought up last meeting. Sherri asked if the new can or bigger can was brought out to the park and let her know that they are supposed to have a regular pick up for trash. Diana stated that she knows it was emptied but it did not look different but the area was clean.

DEBRA VALCOURT-SHERMAN: Stated that the junk house on Winslow Road the grass looks high again. Sherri stated that was the one with the dumpster that is vacant and the violation letter was sent out and they have to go through the process. **SHERRY KENNEDY** stated that last week she saw two (2) gentleman walking the property they looked like maybe they were there to clean it up.

DENISE ADAMS: Nothing to report.

BEN JONES: Nothing to report.

STEPHANIE DUNGEE: Nothing to report.

SHERRIE KENNEDY: Nothing to report but she stated that if anyone sees an issue to please email Sherri with the address and photos if possible prior to the meeting so Sherri has time to research it and then can report her findings at the meeting.

DEBRA VALCOURT-SHERMAN: Asked a question in reference to Porta Potties if you need a permit for them or if you can just rent them and put them on your property. Sherri stated that is not anything she handles probably have to check with Tara in zoning. There was a brief discussion in reference to this matter.

DAVID SCALES: Not present.

SHERRIE KENNEDY: With no further business to discuss, **SHERRIE KENNEDY** asked for a motion to adjourn and **DEBRA VALCOURT-SHERMAN** made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Board of Health meeting of May 08, 2024 the motion was seconded by **BEN JONES**. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Rudolph
Clerk Transcriber

These minutes are an extract from the meeting that was held on the above date and are not a verbatim account or to be construed as an official transcript of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____

Approved as corrected _____ Date _____