

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
PLANNING BOARD
Special Permit Public Hearing
August 24, 2011
TOWN HALL – 1ST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
8:00 PM**

Board Members Present: David A. Smith Sr.
James T. Collingwood Jr.
Peter R. Cherneff
Margaret Martin

Others Present: Honor Blume, 124 Cook Rd., Sheffield
Robyn Sandberg, 281 Silver St., Sheffield
Charlotte Owens, 41 Old Mill Pond Rd., Sheffield

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.

Secretary M. Martin read the notice of public hearing, published in the Berkshire Record, into the record.

Chair of the Planning Board, David Smith Sr., explained the purpose and procedure of the hearing.

Mr. Smith asked Honor Blume if she was willing to have 4 rather than 5 members of the Board review her application. She agreed.

Board members questions:

James Collingwood wanted to know if any part of this addition would be outside. Ms. Blume stated that she is duplicating what already exists so that she can have a day-care as well as a boarding facility. The proposed addition will be enclosed. The proposed addition will take up one yard currently used as a play area so that when the addition is installed the dogs will play further back on her property.

Peter Cherneff asked Ms. Blume to explain the proposed addition using the map. She explained that the new runs will not be heated but there will be exterior walls and a roof.

Margaret Martin asked how many dogs can be kept in the new facility. Ms. Blume explained that her current maximum capacity is 28 and that with the addition the capacity will increase by about 20. She stated that there will not be any daycare on the weekend.

Charlotte Owens, of 41 Old Mill Pond Rd. in Sheffield, a neighbor of Ms. Blume, told the Board that she is concerned about noise. She has worked out previous issues regarding noise. But now she is concerned about more dogs and that the noise will increase again. Ms. Blume responded that there may be less noise because with the new facility the dogs in each section will not see each other. But, she stated that there could be

up to 50 dogs total with the proposed addition to the business.

James Collingwood asked what times of day does Ms. Owens hear the dogs? She said in the morning and at specific times during the day but that lately it has been manageable.

Robyn Sandberg pointed out that Ms. Blume will be sequencing the dogs' time outdoors so there won't be an increased number of dogs outside at any one time, even though there will be more dogs in total.

Letter read from Michelle and Fred Harwood, neighbors at 50 Cook Road, who are unable to be at the hearing tonight. The Harwoods ask that reasonable measures be considered to reduce the amount of noise. Sometimes the Harwoods have to move inside and shut their windows, the noise can be so aggravating.

David Smith Sr. recommended that the Board deliberate another night so that they can investigate the circumstances further and do a site visit. He will give Ms. Blume a call before coming by. Ms. Blume invited the Board to come anytime during business hours.

At 8:30 p.m., a motion to close the public hearing was made by Mr. Collingwood, seconded by Ms. Martin and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadia Milleron
Secretary to the Planning Board