

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes**

March 12, 2009

7:02 PM Meeting	The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Present were Steve Damiano (8:15 PM), Stanley Selkow, William Farr, and David Favreau
7:02 PM Business	<p>The minutes from 1/18/2009 and 2/12/2009 were approved.</p> <p>Mr. Favreau passed out a draft of the Town by-laws, which are being codified and reorganized.</p> <p>Mr. Favreau explained a plan to share a town vehicle with the Building Department. A sign-out sheet would be used for scheduling use of the vehicle. The Board members encouraged Mr. Favreau to use the town vehicle when convenient.</p> <p>A one-year extension to the disposal works construction permit for 37 Bird St. was approved.</p> <p>The Board approved funding for Mr. Favreau to attend an MHOA Community Sanitation program and the DEP Annual Conference.</p> <p>Mr. Favreau described a situation involving an injured animal incident in Princeton. The animal was taken to the Sterling Veterinary Clinic and the bill was mistakenly sent to the Sterling Board of Health. He is attempting to straighten the situation out and to avoid future occurrences of the problem.</p> <p>The next Board meetings will be on 4/9, 5/14, 6/11, and 7/9.</p>
8:00 PM 51 Kendall Hill Rd. John Schmidt Preliminary Variance Hearing	<p>Mr. Neil Gorman of Ross Associates appeared before the Board with plans for a voluntary upgrade to the system on this property. Mr. Gorman stated that the system has not been tested, but would likely fail inspection. The plans call for installation of a Presby system in fill. The lot is only 0.5 acre and grading will be a problem, so the plans include a poly barrier and a stone and concrete retaining wall by the street. Several local upgrade approvals will be requested: a reduction from 10' to 4' for the offset between the septic tank and the foundation; a reduction from 4' to 3' of the separation from the bottom of the bed and seasonal high groundwater; a reduction in the offset from the inlet and outlet tees and seasonal high groundwater; and only two deep holes. A variance from the Sterling by-law requiring 1000 square feet of leach bed will also be requested. Mr. Gorman noted that a water line will need to be relocated under the driveway to satisfy offset requirements and that a schedule 40 pipe sleeve will be used. There are no wells within 100' of the proposed system. The final variance hearing was set for 8 PM on 4/9/2009.</p>

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<p>8:15 PM Gary Griffin Beaver Problem</p>	<p>Mr. Gary Griffin appeared before the Board to discuss a beaver problem on West Waushacum Pond. Mr. Griffin stated that there have been beaver problems an elevated water levels on West Waushacum Pond for more than a year, but that the water level is now high enough that he is experiencing flooding problems and feels that his septic system is in danger. Beavers have contributed to the blocking of two culverts under Gates Rd, though the culverts have also been damaged by heavy construction traffic associated with the sewer system installation in Waushacum Village. There is also a dam blocking a railroad culvert downstream of the culverts. Mr. Griffin also produced an e-mail from Mr. Bill Tuttle of Sterling DPW saying he is concerned that town wells are threatened. The problem is responsibility. According to documents produced by Mr. Griffin, the law says that the person experiencing the problem is responsible for the problem. In Mr. Griffin's view, the responsible parties are the town, the state, and the railroad. He is becoming frustrated and wants the Board to help solve the problem. The DCR has not taken any action recently, though Mr. Griffin produced an e-mail from Mr. Ken MacKenzie saying that they had partially breached the dam in September of 2008.</p> <p>Mr. Damiano stated that the Board would be happy to visit the site and would coordinate efforts to solve the problem. A site visit will be arranged as soon as possible.</p>
<p>8:35 PM Business</p>	<p>Mr. Selkow asked Mr. Griffin for an update on the status of the peeling paint from his property at the intersection of Main St. and Maple St. In 2006, the Board had asked for testing of the paint chips. The tests showed that the paint chips contained lead. Mr. Griffin replied that the economy would improve enough that work can commence on removing the siding removing the paint from the trim. Another possibility is to encapsulate the building with vinyl siding, but he prefers the option of removing the siding.</p>

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted

William Farr
Clerk