

February 11, 2021
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM Chairman Martin called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Cathie Martin, Chairman – present, remote connection
Allen Hoffman, Member – present, remote connection
Gary Menin, Member – present, remote connection
David Favreau, Health Agent – present, on site
Elaine Heller, Administrative Assistant – present, remote connection

Attendees: By remote connection - Chris Stoddard, Kellie Hebert, Arden Sonnenberg, Jane Beckwith, Jennifer Scalise, Pam Orsini, Jack Maloney, and Chris Maitland

General Business Updates: including but not limited to the following:

Approve Any Available Minutes: December 10, 2020 & January 14, 21, 28, 2021:

After review of the December 10, 2020 minutes, Gary Menin made a motion to approve revised minutes and Allen Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hoffman – aye; Martin – aye; Menin – nay. Motion carried.

Gary Menin made a motion to approve amended minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting. There was no second to his motion. Ms. Martin made an amendment to Mr. Menin’s motion to approve one sentence only – “Mr. Menin disagreed and indicated that he would be filing two open meeting law complaints towards settlement of this disagreement.” Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye; Menin – nay. Motion moved.

Due to scheduled appointments, Ms. Martin made a motion to table review of the January 21 and 28 minutes to later in the meeting. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye; Menin – aye. Motion carried.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

15 Fox Run Road Variance Request:

Local Upgrade Request: 15.405(1)(g): Reduction of system location setbacks from water supply lines – 10 feet. (As Built – 6’ from water line to septic tank and 8’ from water line to pump chamber).

Jack Maloney, Engineer with Dillis and Roy Civil Design, represented the homeowner on this variance. After discussion, Mr. Hoffman made a motion to approve the request and Mr. Menin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Menin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

37 Clinton Road Variance Request:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV. a., Leach beds to be 1000 square feet minimum, with 12” of stone beneath the pipes (648 sq. ft. Presby sand bed provided with no stone beneath pipes).

Local Upgrade Request:

310 CMR 15.405(1)(i): A sieve analysis may be performed if a percolation test cannot be performed as determined by the approving authority.

Jack Maloney represented the homeowner on this variance request. A motion to approve the variance as presented was made by Mr. Menin and seconded by Mr. Hoffman. Roll call vote: Menin – aye; Hoffman – aye; Martin – aye. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Requirements for a motion to reconsider a past-voted action of the Board of Health:

After a discussion on revisiting items already voted on, Mr. Hoffman explained a motion to reconsider a topic requires a second to the motion and a majority vote.

12 Jewett Road: Chris Stoddard - continuation request for BOH to sign building permit:

Mr. Stoddard, a Civil Engineer, was hired by the homeowners and made a site visit to the property in regard to a proposed addition to the home; a building permit is needed. He is proposing a perc test and a 2-bedroom deed restriction. No variances are required. Mr. Hoffman commented that these items were discussed at the September 10, 2020 BOH meeting. Upon completion of the proposed items, the Board would then review them before approval.

FY22 BOH and Animal Inspector Budget Discussion:

Board members reviewed the budget worksheets. Health Agent Favreau noted the only change in the budget numbers is a 2% cost of living increase. Mr. Menin made a motion to approve the line item for the Animal Inspector and Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Menin – aye; Hoffman – aye; Martin – aye. Motion carried.

After discussion, a motion to approve the Board of Health budget was made by Mr. Menin and seconded by Mr. Hoffman. Roll call vote: Menin – nay; Hoffman – aye; Martin – aye. Motion carried.

Approve any available minutes: January 21 and 28, 2021 (continued):

A motion to approve revised minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting was made by Allen Hoffman and seconded by Cathie Martin. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Menin abstained as he was not present at the meeting. Motion carried.

Allen Hoffman made a motion to approve revised minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting and Cathie Martin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hoffman – aye; Martin – aye. Mr. Menin abstained as he was not present at the meeting. Motion carried.

Discuss Coronavirus: (A) Town of Sterling Updates

(B) DPH State Updates

(C) Vaccination Distribution Plan Review

Health Agent Favreau reported there are currently 18 new positive COVID cases, and 38 total cases in Sterling, with some coming out of isolation. A vaccination clinic was held at the Senior Center with over 400 residents over the age of 75 receiving the vaccine. The clinic was well run and a huge success.

Ms. Martin gave kudos to the Senior Center, Barry Lein and Anne Marie Catalano for their part in the vaccination clinic. She also presented the Coronavirus information she received in her weekly meetings.

A question was raised about the recent discontinuation of agenda item topic “Public Session” during BOH meetings. Discussion regarding public session ensued. Chairwoman Martin stated a public session would be on the agenda every other month, which was agreeable to other members.

Scheduling of Off-Scheduling Board Meetings:

Mr. Menin expressed his concern that he had only a day’s notice regarding a recently announced off-schedule Board meeting and was unable to attend. He requested that all members be given enough notice – such that a mutually agreed date/time could be identified in any future such situations. Ms. Martin concurred.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gary Menin and seconded by Allen Hoffman. Roll call vote: Menin – aye; Hoffman – aye; Martin – aye. With a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Materials: Minutes, FY22 Budget Worksheets, 12 Jewett Letter-C. Stoddard, Hoffman Letter re: 24 Kendall Hill Rd