

April 8, 2021
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:01 PM Chairman Cathie Martin called the meeting to order.

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

Attendees: Brian McKeon and Jack Maloney

General Business Updates:

Approve Any Available Minutes: February 11, 2021 - Revisions of the draft minutes submitted by Mr. Hoffman were approved.

There was a discussion at the February meeting regarding Public Session, which had been broached by Mr. Menin. In his revisions to the draft minutes, Mr. Menin struck out two sentences and added a paragraph of his interpretation of what was said at the meeting based on his re-listening to a recoding he had made of the meeting. He noted he had recorded the meeting, but had inadvertently not notified the Board he was doing so. He suggested the Chair ask, at the beginning of the meeting, if anyone is recording, as had been done in the past. Ms. Martin commented no one should record a meeting unless the Board/Committee is advised.

As Mr. Menin disagreed with the Administrative Assistant's interpretation of the discussion, Mr. Hoffman suggested the paragraph in question be revised and resent to members before the next meeting. He then made a motion to defer approval of the minutes until the next meeting and Mr. Menin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Menin - aye. Motion carried.

A motion to approve minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting was made by Gary Menin and seconded by Allen Hoffman. Roll call vote: Menin - aye; Hoffman - aye. Martin abstained as she was not present at the meeting. Motion carried.

Health Agent Report and Correspondence: None

Signatures Required: None

Other Items: None

Discuss Coronavirus: (A) Town of Sterling Updates
 (B) DPH State Updates
 (C) Vaccination Distribution Plan review

According to Health Agent Favreau, there are currently 8 new cases of COVID-19, with 2 at the nursing home. The nursing home has reported a drop in positive cases within their facility and as such has limited their isolation and quarantine areas needed for their residence.

Ms. Martin reviewed her updates from DPH. She noted the vaccination distribution plan review is looking at the possibility of trials of the vaccination for children. This may occur in the Fall, possibly at schools in town.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

162 Clinton Road Variance Request: Graz Engineering:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV. System Design: Leaching beds to have a minimum of 1,000 s.f. (Provided - 416 s.f. of Presby).

Reg. IV. System Design: Leaching beds to have a minimum of 12" of stone beneath the lateral pipes. (Presby approval does not allow stone beneath the laterals).

Reg. IV. A DEP-approved effluent tee filter or equivalent department-approved technology is required at the outlet of all septic tanks.

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h): Approving authority may reduce the required 4-foot offset from the E.S.H.W.T. To the bottom of the proposed S.A.S. (Provided - 3').

Brian McKeon of Graz Engineering represented the homeowners of this single-family home with a failed system. He noted there are wetlands nearby, and he has spoken with the Conservation Commission. According to Health Agent Favreau, approval of the variance will require a 2-bedroom deed restriction. After discussion, Mr. Menin made a motion to approve the variance and Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion, noting approval contingent on the deed restriction. Roll call vote: Menin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Martin - aye. With all in favor, the motion carried.

167 Beaman Road Variance Request: Dillis & Roy Civil Design Group:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV. System Design: Leaching beds to have a minimum of 1,000 s.f. (Provided - 913.5 s.f. of Presby).

Reg. IV. System Design: Leaching beds to have a minimum of 12" of stone beneath the lateral pipes. (Presby approval does not allow stone beneath the laterals).

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h): Approving authority may reduce the required 4-foot offset from the E.S.H.W.T. To the bottom of the proposed S.A.S. (Provided - 3').

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.

Engineer Jack Maloney of Dillis & Roy appeared before the Board on this variance request. Members reviewed the request and Mr. Menin made a motion to approve. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Menin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Martin - aye. Motion carried.

26 Justice Hill Road Variance Request: Dillis & Roy Civil Design Group:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV. System Design: Leaching beds to have a minimum of 1,000 s.f. (Provided 600 s.f. of Presby).

Reg. IV. System Design: Leaching beds to have a minimum of 12" of stone beneath the lateral pipes. (Presby approval does not allow stone beneath the laterals).

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.211 (1): Wetlands bordering a surface water supply or tributary thereto - 100'. (Provided - 58.9').

310 CMR 15.405(1)(h): Approving authority may reduce the required 4-foot offset from the E.S.H.W.T. To the bottom of the proposed S.A.S. (Provided - 3').

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.

The homeowners were represented by Jack Maloney of Dillis & Roy. He commented that the house has 2 cesspools, both in failure. With wetlands an issue, Mr. Maloney had the plans reviewed by Vinnie Vignaly of DEP, who has approved the plans. They were also approved by the Conservation Commission. He will send the email he received from Mr. Vignaly to the Health Agent. A motion to approve the variance request was made by Gary Menin and seconded by Allen Hoffman. Roll call vote: Menin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Martin - aye. Motion carried.

Update to March 13, 2021 Meeting with FinCom:

Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Favreau attended the Finance Committee Budget Meeting and presented the BOH budget recently approved by the Board. Members of FinCom inquired about making the Assistant Health Agent's position full time, and what the financial impact would be. According to HA Favreau, \$22,040 would need to be allocated for a full-time position, which would be a benefitted position.

Mr. Menin questioned the funding approved at the 2020 ATM for additional help. According to Mr. Favreau, applications have been received for this 10-hour per week position, with applicants having limited or no experience for this position.

Review of Future Meeting Date:

Mr. Menin mentioned a recent hazard mitigation plan meeting, which included a discussion of problematic dams in town. He asked why no one from the BOH attended the meeting. Mr. Favreau commented he had a previous commitment and was unable to attend. Mr. Menin would like this topic discussed at the May meeting.

The May meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 6:00 PM.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cathie Martin and seconded by Gary Menin. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Menin - aye; Hoffman - aye. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Materials: Minutes;