

July 21, 2022

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

Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allen Hoffman.

Roll Call: Allen Hoffman, Chairman – present
Anne Marie Catalano, Member – absent
Cathie Martin, Member – present
David Favreau, Health Agent – present
Elaine Heller, Administrative Assistant – present

Attendees: Fran McCormack, Lynne McCormack, Michael Ringer, Sr., Michael Ringer, Jr.,
Kathleen Chasse, Terry Heinold, Doug Downey, Mark Elbag, Brandon Ducharme,
and Chris Anderson

General Business Updates:

Approve Any Available Minutes – June 9, 2022:

Members reviewed the minutes. A motion to approve was made by Martin and seconded by Hoffman.
Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Health Agent Report:

5 Charles Patten: Current Assessor's information indicates this home has 2 bedrooms, which would require a deed restriction. Archived Assessor's document provides this is a 3-bedroom dwelling. Health Agent Favreau recently walked the home and it does have 3 bedrooms, so no deed restriction is needed. A variance request for this property was approved at the June BOH meeting.

The Board of Health Office has received 1440 test kits for COVID. These will be distributed to town departments. Expiration dates have been extended on some and can be checked on the website for the pharmacy company who manufactured the kits.

Cathie Martin commented that Sterling is in a drought and it is important to monitor water usage.

BOH Appointments: Health Agent and Associate Agent, Alternate Food and Septic Inspector, Animal Inspector, Burial Agent, Plumbing/Gas Inspector and Alternate Plumbing Inspectors.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve these appointments:

- David Favreau, Health Agent
- Kathleen Nickerson, Associate Agent
- Bob Moore, Alternate Food and Septic Inspector
- Emma Massa, Animal Inspector
- Kathy Farrell, Burial Agent

- Bob Janda, Plumbing/Gas Inspector
- James Bakum and Jeremy Pierce, Alternate Plumbing Inspectors

Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

Signatures Required: Done

DPH – Interagency Updates: Mrs. Martin reported that COVID reporting is now being done weekly instead of daily. No updates.

Other Items: None

Appointments and Agenda Items:

101 Osgood Road Variance Request:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV k.2 – Area Subject to Vehicular Traffic. Neither the primary leaching area nor the reserve leaching area may be located under an area subject to vehicular traffic. Areas subject to vehicular traffic include, but are not limited to, driveways, parking lots and loading docks.

Reg. IV n. – The following activities are prohibited within a designated area and land within 10 feet of the limits of a designated reserve area: 2. Driveways, paved patios, decks, and platforms.

Chris Anderson of Hannigan Engineering, represented the homeowner on this variance request. A small portion of the reserve leaching area is under the driveway. Abutters, who live at 5 Blueberry Lane, attended the meeting with concerns about drainage. There are wetlands between the properties. After review and explanations of the plan, the homeowners were satisfied with the plans as proposed.

According to the Health Agent, the plan meets with all BOH requirements. A motion to approve the plan as written was made by Martin and seconded by Hoffman. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

139 Rowley Hill Road Variance Request:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: IV.a. –Leach beds shall have 1,000 square feet of leaching area with a minimum of 12 inches of stone beneath the lateral pipes. Proposed: A leaching area of 641 square feet is provided in conjunction with the Presby Enviro-Septic system. Additionally, no stone is required for the installation of the Presby system. This design and installation is proposed in compliance with the DEP approval for General Use.

Brandon Ducharme of David Ross Associates spoke on this variance request for new construction of a 3-bedroom home. According to Chairman Hoffman, there are no details of a reserve area shown on the plan, which is a requirement when it is new construction. A motion to continue review of this variance until the August 11, 2022 meeting with additional design on the plan was made by Martin and seconded by Hoffman. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

9 Pikes Hill Road Variance Request:

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405 (1)(h): Reduction of the required 4-foot separation between the bottom of the leach area and the estimated seasonal high groundwater table (3-foot separation provided between the bottom of the leach area and the estimated seasonal high groundwater table). Mark Elbag of Design Engineering spoke on this request, which is a repair to an existing system. After review by Board members, Martin made a motion to accept as written. Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. With both in favor, the motion carried.

1835 Sewer Connection Design Review:

According to Town Administrator Caldwell, the building is to stay status quo with no change of use or flow increase. After Board members reviewed the plan, Mr. Hoffman noted the Fire Station septic system capacity can allow for approximately 760 GPD in increased flow from the 1835 Building and this figure must appear on the plan. Hoffman made a motion that the plan is not acceptable as drawn as it does not show that flow from the Town Hall to the Fire Station is restricted, and the GPD needs to be verified. Martin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

Review of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date:

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Butterick Building.

Adjourn:

Martin made a motion to adjourn and Hoffman seconded the motion. With both in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Materials: Minutes