

July 6, 2023  
Sterling Board of Health Meeting  
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room  
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:04 PM                      Chairman Allen Hoffman called the meeting to order.

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

**Attendees:**                      Matt Scannell

The Meeting was recorded by SLCT.

**General Business Updates:**

**Approve Any Available Minutes: June 8, 2023:**

After review, a motion to approve minutes, as written, of the June 8, 2023 meeting was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None

**Health Agent Report: Septage backup onto Main Street, Public Bathing Beach Testing:**

Last Sunday, July 2, sewage from a home on Main Street, across from the Fire Station, backed up, caused by a pump chamber float that did not work. Sewage came up through manholes. The health agent had been called by the fire dept.; the problem was quickly resolved.

To date, beach water testings have all been well below the limit for bacteria. The most recent test showed a slight increase possibly due to high heat temperatures and frequent heavy rains storms. 235 is the maximum limit and the last test was 39.

A small fire occurred at Barber's Crossing Restaurant in the downstairs lounge on July 4. Police / Fire dispatch called the Health Agent to the scene. The Fire Inspector will determine the cause of the fire, although it had been noted electrical was the cause. ServPro was called in immediately and did a great cleanup job as noted during a subsequent inspection of this establishment.

CSX Rail Company has submitted their Yearly Operational Plan regarding herbicide spraying.

Stantec, the review engineering firm for the Town of Sterling and Sterling Village Nursing Home, has submitted its contract. This contract is reimbursed by fees received by the Board.

The Town Administrator received correspondence from James Gettens regarding BOH local regulations. Comments made by Mr. Gettens in the letter paraphrase the letter recently sent out by the Board to Sterling residents, which justify the observation hole test. The Health Agent petitioned the Commonwealth for other towns that have the same regulation. Some towns have replied in the affirmative; not all towns have responded to date.

There were 5 Title 5 inspections done in the last month. Four systems passed and 1 failed. Three needed additional soil testing. The system that failed occurred at the Over Easy Cafe. The system at this location has failed 2-3 times. It first failed 11 years ago; the last failed after 5 years. The exact cause of the failures is unknown, but possibly grease. The cover to the pump chamber was broken which led to infiltration of water. This may have some bearing on the failure.

**BOH Appointments:**

Health Agent - David Favreau

Associate Agent - Kathleen Nickerson

Alternate Food and Septic Inspector - Robert Moore

Animal Inspector - Emma Massa

Burial Agent - Kathy Farrell

Plumbing/Gas Inspector - Bob Janda

Alternate Plumbing Inspectors - James Bakum & Jeremy Pierce

These appointments are done on an annual basis. A motion to approve the appointments, as listed, was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous vote.

**Signatures Required:** Done

**DPH - Interagency Updates:**

Ms. Martin reported that West Nile Virus and EEE surveillance is now being performed, with no cases to date. Be aware of standing water after all the rain. Mr. Hoffman suggested a notice be placed on the town website if a positive test occurs anywhere in the state.

Ms. Martin also noted that elder abuse is a prominent part of public health; numbers have doubled since the pandemic. Elder abuse is not necessarily always physical, but can be financial or neglect of an elder. Ms. Martin provided a brochure for distribution. Mr. Hoffman will check to see if the Senior Center has the handouts.

**Other Items:**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2023, at 6:00 PM in Room 205 of the Butterick Building.

**Adjourn:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. With all members in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Materials: Minutes; Elder Abuse Brochure