

October 8, 2020  
Sterling Board of Health Meeting  
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room  
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:02 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 on site  
David Favreau, Health Agent – present on site  
Elaine Heller, Administrative Assistant – present on site

**Attendees:** Barry Lein, Arden Sonnenberg, Dennis Mulryan

**General Business Updates:**

**Approve Any Available Minutes:**

Cathie Martin made a motion to approve revised minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting and it was seconded by Gary Menin. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Menin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** None

**Health Agent Report:**

There are 5 active cases of the Coronavirus at this time – 2 at Sterling Village and 3 at individual homes. The total case count is 146.

**Signatures Required:** Completed

**Other Items:** None

**Discuss Coronavirus:** (A) Town of Sterling Updates

(B) DPH State Updates

The town update was given by Mr. Favreau in his Health Agent Report. Ms. Martin reviewed her notes from meetings she participated in during the last week. There were no questions from Board members.

**Discuss Care Options for Hybrid, Remote Learning Models, Attestation & Checklist Forms:** First Church of Sterling

Dennis Mulryan, representing the First Church, presented two documents for review:

- (A) First Church Remote Learning Center Ventilation Plan
- (B) Portable Air Filters for Student Learning for Covid-19 Risk Management, as prepared by Greene Energy Consultants, LLC

Mr. Hoffman considers the (A) Ventilation Plan to be satisfactory. Plan (B) is more complicated as it must be accepted by DESE and/or EEC.

Mr. Mulryan commented they are expecting 23 students will participate in their remote learning site. There will be 2 adults to supervise.

Arden Sonnenberg asked if the Board of Health is considering the First Church format for the municipal buildings as she believes there is a need to understand ventilation of the buildings. Ms. Martin commented that the Building Department has information from the state Department of Buildings and Standards and that would be the best source for ventilation considerations.

Members reviewed the Covid-19 Order No 49: Order Authorizing Certain Program Adjustments to Support Families with Students Engaged in Remote Learning. A motion to approve this checklist, in order for the First Church to move forward with the Selectboard, was made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Mr. Hoffman. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye; Menin – aye. Unanimous vote.

In other business, Emergency Management Coordinator Barry Lein noted an EDS setup drill is required. Members advised he should proceed with a plan for the drill and asked for a Saturday date, if possible.

**Public Session:** None

**Appointments and Agenda Items:**

**40 Wiles 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 (432 sq. ft. sand bed provided with no stone beneath pipes). Reg. IV.f.f., Leaching facilities 0-1,499 GPD shall be constructed with the following minimum 4-foot separation distance to estimated seasonal high groundwater (3 feet separating is proposed).

**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). 15.405(1)(j): Reduction of the required 12-inch separation between the estimated seasonal high groundwater table and the tank inlet and outlet tees. (Less than 12-inch separation between the estimated seasonal high groundwater table and the inlet and outlet tees is proposed).

Chris McKenzie submitted the variance request for this property. Mr. Menin had no issues with the variance. Mr. Hoffman expressed concern regarding the offset to groundwater. Mr. Favreau suggested the installation of a rubber boot on the pump chamber and septic tank. Ms. Martin and Mr. Hoffman asked that the sand bed be 10% larger, or approximately 475. sq. ft. Mr. McKenzie agreed to the changes and will submit a revised plan to the BOH office. Mr. Hoffman made moved to authorize the Health Agent to sign the variance request when the revised plan has been received. Ms. Martin seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Hoffman – aye; Martin – aye; Menin – nay. Motion carried.

**Review of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date:**

Ms. Martin requested more support from the Board of Health members. Upon request, Mr. Menin agreed to be the point person for the Library and Senior Center. Mr. Hoffman agreed to serve as the point person for the First Church, both reopening of the church and remote learning center. Mr. Favreau will cover restaurants and businesses.

If there is a need for additional Covid meetings for emergencies, they will be held on Thursdays at 4:00 PM.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2020.

**Adjourn:** Ms. Martin made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Menin seconded. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye; Menin – aye. Unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Materials: Minutes; COVID notes; First Church vent plan, Greene Energy review; BOH draft re: inspection for remote learning