

January 21, 2021
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

4:01 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 – absent
David Favreau, Health Agent – present, on site
Elaine Heller, Administrative Assistant – present, remote connection

Attendees: By remote connection – Kellie Hebert, Maureen Cranson, Domenica Tatasciore,
Town Counsel Greg Corbo, and Jennifer Scalise

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

Appointments and Agenda Items: Review and discuss actions regarding (2) open meeting law complaints dated January 13, 2021 submitted by Gary Menin, complainant

Town Counsel Greg Corbo attended the meeting to provide direction regarding the two complaints, which involved email or written communication by Chairman Martin outside of a Board meeting. The complaints alleged this communication was deliberation outside of an announced open public meeting. Mr. Hoffman stated that his last prior contact with Ms. Martin was an email that was sent to her and copied to Mr. Menin on December 13, 2020. Mr. Menin replied to that memo on December 14, 2020. Thus, if he was guilty of an open meeting violation then so was Mr. Menin.

Mr. Corbo explained “deliberation” is any exchange of ideas among a quorum. According to Open Meeting Law, the communication submitted by Ms. Martin does constitute deliberation. This communication can be read into the record of a meeting and then is no longer an issue. Mr. Corbo offered to write a response to the Attorney General on behalf of the Board.

Ms. Martin explained her reasoning for sending the emails or written communication in that she had received several emails from Mr. Menin at her personal email address.

Select Board Chair Maureen Cranson suggested a discussion be held as to what can be done to resolve these issues, questioning what is going on behind the scene with Mr. Menin.

Mr. Corbo advised that only scheduling and distribution of documents by others can be sent via emails and suggested Board members not respond to emails sent to personal email addresses.

Mr. Corbo suggested a motion in which the Board would acknowledge Open Meeting Law complaints filed by Gary Menin on January 13, 2021, and authorize Town Counsel to respond on the Board’s behalf.

So moved – Allen Hoffman. Second – Cathie Martin. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Martin scheduled a meeting for Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 4:00 PM., to read the memos that she sent by email into the record.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cathie Martin and seconded by Allen Hoffman. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. The meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Materials: (2) OML complaints