

June 9, 2022
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:00 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 – present

Attendees: Jack Maloney, Larry Green

The meeting was recorded by Health Agent Favreau.

General Business Updates:

Approve Any Available Minutes: May 12, 2022:

After review, a motion to approve revised minutes of the May 12, 2022 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:

284 Redemption Rock Trail squatter:

A camper trailer was parked on this property, owner unknown. Sterling Police had the trailer owner remove the vehicle.

2022 CSX Railroad Right of Way YOP:

The CSX Yearly Operating Plan was received at the Board office.

Sterling Healthcare Wastewater Non-compliance:

A violation notice was received at this facility as the limit of 22,000 GPD was exceeded. The situation is being monitored by DEP. The Health Agent will follow up for the next Board meeting.

Washacum Homeowner Association Housing Concern:

An objectionable odor was detected at a property in Waushacum Village. When contacted, the homeowner agreed to clean up the property.

7 Elliott Road COC Issued:

The system was lifted to a 4-foot offset, which required no variance. The system is now in compliance.

Public Beach Opens 6/18/2022:

Water quality at the beach is being tested one time weekly.

Sterling has been Granted At-Home Rapid Antigen Kits:

The kits should arrive sometime next week and will be provided to the main town departments.

Other Items:

After discussion on reorganization of the Board, Allen Hoffman agreed to continue as Chairman.

Satellite phone testing is being done by Barry Lein on a monthly basis at various locations.

Health Agent Favreau spoke with the Fair Committee and the Sterling Fair is still good to go. Face masks for vendors would be prudent.

The Health Agent asked permission of Board members to buy back one week vacation time, as long as it doesn't affect the budget. After discussion, a motion to allow Mr. Favreau to buy back one week of vacation time equal to 40 hours was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous vote.

Health Agent Favreau received a request for a soil evaluation by a gentleman who needed one as soon as possible as he was going on vacation. Mr. Favreau met with him on a Friday afternoon in order to help. His efforts were greatly appreciated.

Signatures Required: None

DPH Interagency Updates:

Mosquito testing for EEE begins June 12, 2022.

The FDA is scheduled to review a COVID vaccine for ages 6 months to 5 years this Friday, June 10.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

184 Clinton 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 (638 sq. ft. of Presby type system provided with no stone beneath pipes).

Reg. IV reduction to allow a leaching facility to be situated 51 feet from a water body, 100 ft. required.

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h): Reduction of the 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).

310 CMR 15.404 (1)(b): Reduction of system location setbacks to a cellar wall to allow a 13-foot setback to the soil absorption field where 20 feet is required.

Larry Green of McCarty Engineering spoke on this variance request for a Presby system. He will provide a 2000-gallon tank with 2 chambers, not 1000. A 2-bedroom deed restriction would be required, as determined by the assessor's information. Catalano made a motion that the system be not less than 1500 gallons for storage and there be a 2-bedroom deed restriction. Martin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Catalano - aye; Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye. Motion carried.

5 Charles Patten 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 (612 sq. ft. of Presby type system provided with no stone beneath pipes).

Reg. IV: A reduction to allow a leaching facility to be situated 68 feet from a water body, 100 ft. required.

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)(i): A sieve analysis may be performed if a perc test cannot. (Provided - sieve analysis report attached)

Jack Maloney of Dillis and Roy appeared before the Board on this variance request. A Presby system is proposed to replace this failed system for a 3-bedroom home. After discussion and with minor changes to the plan, a motion to approve with corrections as noted was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. With all in favor, the motion carried.

240 Worcester Road:

Owners of the property recently met with department heads to answer questions. The owners wanted to meet with the Board of Health at this June meeting but were not ready with their research information and will attend the July meeting.

Stable Regulations: Discuss Draft Revisions:
This topic is tabled until the next meeting.

Sterling Subsurface Disposal System Regulations: Discuss Draft Revisions:
The regulations were reviewed and changes made. A final review will be done at the next meeting.

Fee Schedule: Discuss Draft Revisions:
It was suggested that the Health Agent obtain information as to the amount of time the Alternate Agent spends on inspections before determining new fees. The schedule will be discussed at a later meeting.

Review of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date:
The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Butterick Building.

Adjourn:
A motion to adjourn was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.