

November 10, 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:**                      Joshua Joslyn, Laura Ricci, Arlene McGuirk, Chris Knuth, Paul and  
Nancy Horton, Garth Coleman, and Hannah Kowalski

**General Business Updates:**

**Approve Any Available Minutes – October 13, 2022:**

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept minutes, with corrections, of the October 13, 2022 meeting. Catalano seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Catalano – aye; Hoffman – aye. All in favor, motion carried.

**Health Agent Report:** Results of cyanobacteria (algae) cells in West Waushacum Pond. 10/20 laboratory analysis showed cyanobacteria levels of 96 cells/ml, below the MDPH guideline level of 70,000 cells/ml. The toxin microcystin was not detected in the sample (<1 ppb).

The algae cells limits are down with two consecutive testings and the advisory has been lifted.

A Rabies Clinic was held on November 5, with 32 dogs and 23 cats participating.

A kitchen fire occurred this day, Thursday, at the Sterling National Country Club. A flash fire occurred in the kitchen and involved gas from propane tanks that were being worked on. Two employees were burned.

**57 Kendall Hill Road:** Upgrade system to meet compliance discrepancy of bedroom count:

The contractor upgraded the septic system design from a 4-bedroom home to a 5 bedroom home.

Joshua Joslyn, of Graz Engineering, LLC, appeared before the Board, with a request for 2 variances for this home: to extend the leach field 10 feet and to add 6 inches of crushed stone beneath the lateral pipes, rather than 12 inches. The Health Agent had no negative comments with the plan. Catalano made a motion to accept the plan as presented. Martin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Catalano – aye; Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

**Sterling Regulation IV.a - 12"** of stone required beneath lateral pipes. The system extension was designed with 6" of stone beneath lateral pipes to match the existing system. 6" of stone is required per Title 5 (310 CMR 15.252(2)(g)).

**Sterling Regulation IV.b.** – Required pipe specification of 4" schedule 40 PVC. The design calls for 4" SDR 35 PVC for the lateral pipes to match the existing system. SDR 35 PVC is required per Title 5 (310 CMR 15.221(5)).

In a review of the variance request, Health Agent Favreau noted he had no negative comments with the plan. A motion to accept the variance, as presented, was made by Catalano and seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: Catalano – aye; Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

12 Main Street: Discrepancy of bedroom count: The homeowner of this property is obtaining a 6-bedroom deed restriction, which will be recorded legally. This is consistent with the existing design.

FY24 Budget Schedule of Timeline: The draft budget is due January 6, 2023. The Health Agent will have the budget prepared in draft format for the December meeting.

161 Rowley Hill Road: Review Title 5 Inspection Report: Health Agent Favreau updated Board members on this property. The homeowner is considering a detached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) for an existing structure at this address and would need a special permit from the Zoning Board. There is an existing non-conforming well which is less than 100 feet to the septic systems, which could present problems. After discussion, Chairman Hoffman suggested the Health Agent draft a letter with an explanation of problems, including information that a variance from the well would be needed from the Board of Health. A copy of the letter will be sent to the ZBA as information only. A motion that Mr. Favreau write a letter to the ZBA as discussed was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Catalano – aye; Hoffman – aye; Unanimous vote.

Signatures Required: None

DPH – Interagency Updates: No updates

**Appointments and Agenda Items:**

**3 Hilltop Drive 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 (555 sq. ft. of Presby-type system provided with no stone beneath pipes).

Reg. IV.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 separation 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).

Engineer Chris Knuth of Geo Services represented the homeowner on this request. After review, Martin made a motion to approve; Catalano seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Catalano – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

**16 Adam Taylor Road Variance Request:**

Sterling Private Well Regulations: Variance request: closed loop Geothermal Well to a septic tank 100 feet required, 35 feet proposed. Subsurface disposal system 100 feet required, 75 feet proposed.

Hannah Kowalski, Geothermal Energy Permit Coordinator with Dandelion Energy, appeared before the Board and explained the workings of a geothermal well. After discussion, Catalano made a motion to approve the request. Martin seconded. Roll call vote: Catalano – aye; Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. With all in favor, the motion carried.

25 James Road: Title 5 Inspection:

A Title 5 inspection was performed due to a real estate transfer. Groundwater determination is needed, according to the T5 Inspector and Bob Moore, the Sterling Alternate Inspector. The homeowner has decided to have a soil evaluation as the system may be in the groundwater. Per the Health Agent, this information is an update only.

Other Items:

Board members reviewed and made changes to the disposal system regulations. A public hearing will be scheduled.

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

The schedule of fees will be reviewed at the December meeting, which is scheduled for December 8, 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 7:50 PM.

Materials: Minutes