

March 9, 2023
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: Brian Pierce

General Business Updates:

Approve Any Available Minutes: February 9, 2023:

After review, a motion to approve revised minutes was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous vote.

Correspondence: None

Health Agent Report:

- Governor Healey FY 2024 Budget \$242 Million tax relief package: Governor Healey's tax relief package shows an FY24 budget recommendation of a \$12,000 credit for a septic repair or replacement.
- MEHA Seminar March 1: Health Agent Favreau attended a MA Health Officers Association seminar on March 1, 2023 in Taunton and updated the Board to the topics, one in particular, enforcement actions. DEP has an upcoming seminar at Devens and there will also be a seminar regarding new Title 5 waste water technologies.
- 12 James Road: The Health Agent reported effluent had been backed up into the distribution box and septic tank. A Title 5 inspection had been performed verifying failure. The homeowner has engaged with an engineering firm, and soil testing has been scheduled for a new design.
- Misinformation/disinformation: Information has been posted on various social media platforms, including mass email communication by previous Board of Health member, Gary Menin, regarding the Board of Health regulations. Mr. Favreau noted that solicited disinformation by Mr. Menin of an additional \$2,500.00 expense is misleading to the public. Mr. Menin wrote, **"This change – for all homes built prior to early 1995 will therefore require the added cost of ~ \$2,500.00 as the Deep Observation Hole (DOH) requires added resources of an excavator and operator and a DEP certified soil evaluator – on site – for at least one day."**
The BOH surveyed various professional engineering firms (with Certified Soil Evaluators on staff), and various contractors capable of excavation services for associated cost to this task. Engineering firms with Certified Soil evaluators to log a DOH ranged from

\$150.00-\$200.00. Contractor's cost for excavation of a DOH ranged from \$225.00-\$400.00. Approximate added cost of \$600.00 The Health Agent is to attend the next Select Board meeting to provide facts.

Signatures Required: None

Appointments and Agenda Items:

49 Boutelle Road Variance Request:

Sterling Private Well Regulations: Variance request for Irrigation Well to a Septic Tank 100 feet required, 40 feet proposed. Subsurface Disposal System 100 feet required, 40 feet proposed. Property line 25 feet required, 20 feet proposed.

Homeowner Brian Pierce appeared before the Board to speak on this proposal. His property contains several fruit trees and he does not want to use town resources (water) to maintain his lawn and fruit trees, so he would like to have an irrigation well installed.

In discussion, Mr. Hoffman suggested signage regarding non-potable water be located on any outlets that is supplied by this water supply.

An irrigation water supply well deed recording is recorded with the Registry of Deeds prior to a certificate of Compliance being issued.

A motion to approve the variance with the requirement that any water spigot / outlet from this well be tagged as non-potable water supply and deed recording completed was made by Hoffman and seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: Hoffman - aye; Martin - aye; Catalano - aye. Motion carried.

General Business Updates (continued):

DPH - Interagency Updates:

According to Ms. Martin, COVID numbers are decreasing. She has proposed a mini newsletter to be provided to the community regarding COVID and other Board of Health topics, including misinformation/disinformation. Mr. Hoffman suggested using links to webpages for topics, such as COVID, septic systems, current loan programs, environmental concerns. Ms. Martin will provide website links and the Health Agent will work toward implementation of a newsletter on the town website. The FDA is looking at regulations for safeguards on CBD oil, especially on long-term usage.

Review of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2023, 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 6:57 PM.