

June 8, 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: Jack Maloney, Jodi Prieu, Erik Jewett, Roger & Linda Oetman,
Michael Lashua, Marie LaFortune, MaryLou Beck, Donald Brown,
Matt Scannell, Shea Hauver, Gail Hassett, Dave Baer, Rob McKenzie,
Barbara Roberti, Margaret DeBlois, and Linda Godard

General Business Updates:

Approve Any Available Minutes: May 11, 2023:

Catalano made a motion to approve minutes, as corrected, of the May 11, 2023 meeting. Martin seconded. Roll call vote: Catalano - aye; Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous.

Correspondence: Dan Donovan public records request for copies of all soil evaluation reports for each Title 5 Inspection performed since January 2, 2023 to May 11, 2023:
This request has been fulfilled.

Health Agent Report:

Soil testing is being done, with testing scheduled into July 2023. The Health Agent and Alternate Agent are very busy, even doing testing on Saturdays.

Signatures Required: Done

DPH - Interagency Updates:

According to Ms. Martin, the EPA has tool kits to be used regarding smoke issues due to wildfires: A Smoke-Ready Toolbox for Wildfires and a Smoke Sense App to check the air quality index.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

Variance Request: 12 James Road ... CONTINUED FROM MAY 11, 2023:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV.g, 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). Reg. IV.a, Leach beds to be 1000 square feet minimum, with 12" of stone beneath the pipes (861 sq. ft 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). 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i): A sieve analysis may be performed if a percolation test cannot be performed. (Soil sample taken for sieve analysis due to wet conditions at time of testing is proposed). 310 CMR 15.405(1)(g): Reduction of system location setbacks from water supply lines, private water supply wells (but not within 50 feet of the well), tributaries to surface water supplies, surface water supplies, but not within 100 feet of the surface water supply or tributary thereto or open, surface or subsurface drains which discharge to surface water supplies or tributaries thereto: (36 feet proposed SAS to drain discharging to a tributary) and (40 proposed from septic tank and pump chamber to a wetland bordering tributary).

Engineer Rob McKenzie presented this variance, continued from the previous month. The plans presented to Board members showed a resized system for additional capacity. Health Agent Favreau reviewed the plan and noted it meets both state and local regulations. After review by members of the Board, Martin made a motion to approve the variance as written and Catalano seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Motion carried.

Variance Request: 89 Lakeshore Drive:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations Reg. IV.a., Leach beds to be 1000 square feet minimum, with 12" of stone beneath the pipes (640 sq. ft. of Presby type system provided with no stone beneath pipes). Reg. IV.g., 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). 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i): A sieve analysis may be performed if a percolation test cannot be performed (soil sample taken for sieve analysis due to high water conditions at time of testing is proposed). 310 CMR 15.405(1)(j): Reduction of the required 12-inch separation between the tank inlet and outlet tees and the estimated seasonal high groundwater table. (Less than 12-inch separation between the tank and pump chamber inlet and outlet tees and the estimated seasonal high groundwater table is proposed).

This variance request for a Presby system was presented by Jack Maloney of Dillis and Roy. There are 2 systems on 1 lot. This is a 2-bedroom home with a deed restriction for 2 bedrooms already recorded. After review of the plans, Catalano made a motion to accept as presented. Martin seconded. Roll call vote: Catalano - aye; Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous vote.

Variance Request: 54 Lakeshore Drive:

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i): A sieve analysis may be performed if a percolation test cannot be performed. (Soil sample taken for sieve analysis due to wet conditions at time of testing is proposed). 310 CMR 15.405(1)(j): Reduction of the required 12-inch separation between the tank inlet and outlet tees and the estimated seasonal high groundwater table. (Less than 12-inch separation between the tank and pump chamber inlet and outlet tees and the estimated seasonal high groundwater table is proposed).

Jack Maloney presented the variance request for this 3-bedroom home with a stone and pipe system. Mr. Maloney commented that a recharge trench could be installed as there is runoff to another property. According to Mr. Hoffman, this is not in the purview of the Board of Health. Mr. Favreau noted a recharge trench could help but may not solve the problem.

The variance, as presented, met with Board members approval. A motion to accept the plan as presented was made by Catalano and seconded by Hoffman. Roll call vote: Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye; Martin - aye. Unanimous.

Other Business:

A Sterling resident inquired if regulation paperwork had been changed from deep hole to observation hole as was suggested at the May meeting. The change has not been made to date, as according to the Health Agent, a public hearing is needed to change the language on the regulation.

Adjourn:

Ms. Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Catalano seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Materials: Minutes