November 10, 2016
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Room 205
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA. 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM Vice-Chairman Gary Menin called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Donna Clark, Chair - absent
Allen Hoffman, Member - present
David Favreau, Health Agent - present
Gary Menin, Vice-Chair - present
Elaine Heller, Admin. Asst. - present

Attendees: None

Gary Menin noted he was recording the proceedings as an individual and that they would be available on the cloud for those who are interested. David Favreau indicated he was recording the proceedings as well.

Approve Available Minutes:
The Board postponed approval of prior meeting minutes in Chairman Clark's absence.

Correspondence:
Review Communicable Disease Event Count YTD:
Health Agent Favreau provided a confidential event report from Montachusett Public Health Network (Nursing division) with the YTD count on communicable diseases events occurring in Sterling. Gary Menin commented that the data – insofar as personal identifiers were undisclosed – could reasonably be made public.

Two installer's licenses were signed by Board members.

Appointments and Agenda Items:
Discussion of licensed soil evaluator/soil evaluation of 24 Clinton Road - Gary Menin
Mr. Menin presented during the meeting, (see attachment), an e-mail response from Paul Blaine (DEP Senior Hydrogeologist) and the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England (author unknown), concerning Mr. Menin's opinion that a "strict read" of the soil evaluation could lead one to conclude that the seasonal high ground water was as high as three feet below the surface.
It was agreed that this e-mail should be provided to Mr. Farnsworth and Mr. DeFalco to address this concern. A proposed replacement system design had previously been requested by the BOH for the December meeting.

Site Plan Review 180 Pratts Junction Road:
There is proposed lot development of one lot at this address. The Sterling Planning Board performed a site plan review on Monday, November 7, 2016. As this is new construction, no variances are required. After BOH discussion, it was determined Mr. Favreau will send a letter to the Planning Board indicating the Board of Health reviewed the plans on this date, November

10, 2016, and have no issues. In this regard there was discussion relative to actions the BOH should take towards assurance that the Planning Board gets BOH input in a timely manner. It was Mr. Menin's opinion that the Agent need not involve the Board in such matters if variances were not an issue. Mr. Hoffman felt that these issues had a difference.

Discussion of BOH Newsletter:
A Newsletter draft was prepared by member Allen Hoffman and reviewed by the Board. The Newsletter should be ready to go in approximately 1-2 weeks.

Review Future Agenda Items:
Mr. Hoffman recently attended a ZBA meeting in Harvard and found their zoning bylaws result in an excellent job of controlling phosphorous. He suggested the BOH acquire a copy of the bylaws. Mr. Favreau will check online availability of the bylaws, with the goal of reviewing them at the next meeting.

The Board would like to review the marijuana law just approved and its impact on the town.

Adjourn:
Allen Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Gary Menin. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

pblain@comcast.net
Sep 15 at 10:59 AM
To Gary Menin

Gary -

Just wanted to follow up on yesterday's email with a few additional thoughts.

Since we have no idea at what depth the redox features were observed other than somewhere between 3 and 9 feet (if we believe the soil log), it is possible that they were observed at 3 feet, but further examination of the data you provided us would indicate that this is probably not the case. This is based on a number of observations from our review of the information you sent us.

First, a few comments on the soil log: the color of the C layer is more consistent with the color of an oxidized soil (Bw) and this may be why only a redox depletion color was reported - the matrix color was masking the concentration color. Or perhaps some blotchiness in the soil was mistaken for redox depletions and there are no redox features in the top 9 feet.

Secondly, our review of Section D of the form indicates that this site has an excessively drained soil and it is located at the top of a hill. Also there was no groundwater observed nor was any weeping observed from the pit that I assume was dug to 9 feet based on information provided in the soil log. Also, contrary to what is stated in the soil log that depletions were observed, Section D notes that no redox features were observed. If this is the case, I would estimate that high groundwater is more likely much lower than 3 feet.

Water tables tend to be a subtle reflection of the topography and are usually deeper in upland (recharge) areas then they are in low lying groundwater discharge areas. For these reasons I would conclude that high groundwater is deeper than 3 feet, but without additional information, it is difficult to make an accurate estimate as to the true depth.

Also as I mentioned yesterday, course grained soils tend to have a better defined boundary (smaller capillary fringe) between the water table and the unsaturated zone above then finer grained soils.

Hope this helps. If you can provide additional information we would be happy to analyze the data and provide some thoughts. Feel free to call or email Bruce or I if you want to discuss further. I can be reached via cell at 978.387.6183 or Bruce at the office at 617.556.1055.

From: "pblain@comcast.net" <pblain@comcast.net> **To:** "gcmeninsr@yahoo.com" <gcmeninsr@yahoo.com> **Cc:** "pspina@neiwpcc.org" <pspina@neiwpcc.org>; "bruce.bouck@state.ma.us" <bruce.bouck@state.ma.us> **Sent:** Wednesday, September 14, 2016 3:02 PM **Subject:** RE:

Gary –

Sorry for the unfinished email. (BELOW) I accidently sent it before I had the opportunity to complete it. Give me a call at 978.387.6138 if you want to discuss further. I will make an attempt to complete my thoughts on this issue and send you something tomorrow. PGB

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

INCOMPLETE

From: pblain@comcast.net **Sent:** Wednesday, September 14, 2016 2:56 PM **To:** gcmeninsr@yahoo.com **Cc:** pblain@comcast.net; pspina@neiwpcc.org; bruce.bouck@state.ma.us **Subject:**

Gary –

My apologies for taking so long in getting back to you . We are in the midst of our fall Soil Evaluator class and have just finished up our two classroom a week sessions. That in combination with our normal workload has not left much time for much else.

We have had the opportunity to review the Form 11 that you forwarded to us. **I'm hoping that the person who filled out the form was not one of our former students. An examination of the form raises more questions than it answers.**

It appears that redox features were observed somewhere between 3 and 9 feet because a percentage of less than 10% was recorded somewhere between those two depths, but there is no indication at what depth in the interval they were observed. The log indicates that the texture of the A and B horizons and the C layer is a sandy loam with the C horizon having 25-40% cobbles and stones, but no gravel. It would be

helpful to know if a deep hole was dug and whether standing water was observed. It would also be helpful if we knew what this pit's position on the landscape is (was).
Seasonal groundwater levels will vary more in recharge (upland) areas where the depth to the water table is usually deeper than in lowland (discharge) areas. Finer grained soils will also have a greater capillary fringe . Based on a review of the incomplete soil log you provided Since areaand also Silt loams will have a greater If this pit was located in a low lying area . the position on the landscape f tlbohorizons and With the b tes tht ere wdeddwas in the 3 to 9 foot rt oesn't provide much information as to the depth of high groundwatert I'm not sure how to respond to your sthe 0reviewed the ead , so things have been somewhat hectic are
Sent from Mail for Windows 10
PGB
The description of the soil is poor - no information provided (structure, consistence, etc.). The redox is at 3 feet that is the seasonal high water table. No parent material - poor description.