

May 13, 2021
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM Chairman Cathie Martin called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Gary Menin, Member - present, remote connection
Allen Hoffman, Member - present, remote connection
Cathie Martin, Chairman - present, remote connection
David Favreau, Health Agent - present on site
Elaine Heller, Administrative Assistant - present on site

Attendees: By remote connection: Carol Houde, Chris Knuth, Suzanne Porciello, Marie Laporte, Jim Starbard, Tom Allen, Richard Maki, and Deb McLennan

Health Agent Favreau and member Menin indicated they are recording the meeting.

General Business Updates:

Approve Any Available Minutes:

After discussion, a motion to accept revised minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting was made by Hoffman and seconded by Menin. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Menin - aye. Motion carried.

Menin made a motion to approve revised minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting and Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Menin - aye. Unanimous vote.

Ms. Martin noted she would like to receive comments to the draft minutes approximately 24 hours prior to a meeting date. The minutes should be emailed to Board members the Friday before the meeting.

Correspondence: None

Health Agent Report: Pan Am Railways Managing Herbicide May - August 2021:

Yearly Operational Plan for Railroad Right of Way Management CSX Railroad 2021:

Mr. Favreau commented that the Board of Health and Select board have been notified of the Railroad plans regarding management of herbicides Yearly Operational Plan (YOP).

Failed Title 5 Inspection 35 Redemption Rock Trail:

A notice has been sent to the homeowners of this property regarding a failed cesspool.

81 Chace Hill Road 40B Septic Review:

Health Agent Favreau noted there were deficiencies in the septic plans submitted for this 40B project; a second version has been received and is under review.

Future Meetings to be Held in Butterick Municipal Building:

The Butterick Building is scheduled to re-open in the near future. Board of Health meetings will be held in the lower level conference room, as in the past, beginning with the June meeting.

Signatures Required: None

BOH Appointments: The following appointments to be voted on are:

Health Agent - David Favreau
Associate Agent - Kathie Nickerson
Alternate Food and Septic Inspector - Bob Moore
Animal Inspector - Louis Massa
Burial Agent - Kathy Farrell
Plumbing/Gas Inspector - Bob Janda
Alternate Plumbing Inspectors - James Bakum and Jeremy Pierce

A motion to accept the appointments as written was made by Ms. Martin and seconded by Mr. Hoffman. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Menin - aye. Unanimous vote.

Other Items:

Mr. Menin raised the question of performance reviews as they have not been done as of this date. This topic will be on the June agenda.

Discuss Coronavirus: (A) Town of Sterling Updates

(B) DPH State Updates

(C) Vaccination Distribution Plan Review:

Currently, there are 7 Coronavirus cases in Sterling, with 2 in Sterling Village Nursing Home. DPH has updates on re-opening, per the Governor's orders. The Sterling Council of Aging has received guidance.

In regard to the Vaccination Distribution Plan, 58% of those eligible in Sterling have been vaccinated. Wachusett Regional School District is doing pool testing on all grades. The Rutland Vaccination Clinic is open for those over 12 years old. 6-12 year-old students are scheduled to be vaccinated in the Fall.

A committee is being established regarding re-opening of the Town Hall, possibly by mid-June.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

12 Campground Road Variance Request:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV. System Design: Leaching beds to have a minimum of 1,000 s.f. (Provided 590 s.f. of Presby).

Reg. IV. System Design: Leaching beds to have a minimum of 12" of stone beneath the lateral pipes. (Presby approval does not allow stone beneath the laterals).

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i): A sieve analysis may be performed if a percolation test cannot be performed as determined by the approving authority.

310 CMR 15.405(1)(b): Reduction of system location, offset from cellar wall 20' is required 10' is proposed.

Chris Knuth is the Engineer on this project for a small one-bedroom home. Two abutters expressed concerns and Mr. Knuth clarified the variance request to their satisfaction. Mr. Hoffman noted the request meets minimum requirements. Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the variance, with a 2-bedroom deed restriction and Mr. Menin seconded. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Menin - aye. Unanimous vote.

181 Clinton Road Variance Request:

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: IV. System Design: Leaching beds to have a minimum of 12" of stone beneath the lateral pipes. (Presby approval does not allow stone beneath the laterals).

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). 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i): A sieve analysis may be performed if a percolation test cannot be performed as determined by the approving authority.

Engineer Jack Maloney of Dillis and Roy represented the homeowner on this variance request, for a 2-family, 5-bedroom home. After discussion by Board members, Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the variance request and Mr. Hoffman seconded. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Menin - aye. Motion carried.

RCAP Private Well Discussion:

Jim Starbard, representing RCAP Solutions, explained this program is for assessments of private wells. It is a 5-year program, focusing on Sterling wells this year. Assessments are to be conducted in July and August for interested homeowners. RCAP Solutions can also work with the Board of Health to update private well regulations, if needed. Additional information was requested by Board members, which Mr. Starbard will provide.

Proposed Format for Board of Health Public Comment Periods - Allen H.:

Mr. Hoffman provided a draft proposal for BOH public comment periods during a Board meeting. He noted public comments are usually non-agenda items and cannot be addressed. Mr. Menin does not believe this proposal is necessary. Ms. Martin would like to review the draft proposal and discuss at the June meeting.

Hazard Mitigation Sterling Dams Safety Risk - Gary M.:

This topic was discussed by the Select board at a recent meeting. The Fire Chief also has information on the safety risk of dams in town. According to Mr. Menin, there are 4 dams that have risk potential. He suggested the possibility of obtaining quotes from engineering firms to assess the dams. According to Health Agent Favreau, the Fire Department monitors dams and the DPW checks beaver dams. Ms. Martin stated there would be funding issues for an engineer. Mr. Hoffman believes there is a state agency that oversees these dams. Ms. Martin suggested Mr. Menin check with the Fire Chief for more information.

Review of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date:

Mr. Menin questioned the status of mosquito control in town. Mr. Favreau commented that the state first contacts the Select Board for an opt-out. As Sterling is not a high-risk area, it is not in consideration at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2021, at 6:00 PM in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Butterick Building. Mr. Favreau advised members a meeting needs to be scheduled in regard to a complaint of a public employee. An executive session was scheduled for May 20, 2021, at 3:00 PM in the Butterick Building.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Menin and seconded by Mr. Hoffman. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Menin - aye. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.