

February 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: Richard Sheppard, Ryan Mouradian, Chris Knuth, Jack Maloney, Evan Carbone,
Louis Bartolini, and Barry Lein (via Zoom)

Health Agent Favreau recorded the meeting through Zoom.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

Approve Any Available Minutes: January 13, 2022:

After review, a motion to approve revised minutes was made by Cathie Martin and seconded by Anne Marie Catalano. Roll call vote: Hoffman – aye; Martin – aye; Catalano – aye. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Complaints have been received about odors emanating from the Botanist facility. Health Agent Favreau has discussed this concern with the general manager of this facility and has scheduled a time to meet at the facility for a remediation plan to address the odor source.

A Rabies Clinic is scheduled for March 19, 2022, at the Sterling VCA Animal Clinic.

Health Agent Report:

239 Redemption Rock Trail Conditional Pass Inspection Report:

The conditional pass Title 5 inspection for this septic system; the tank may have settled / compromised and would not pass a T5 inspection. Letter sent to the owner regarding time line for compliance to this issue.

Other:

BOH legal expenses through December 2021 for litigation of Title 5 compliance with homeowners of 24 Kendall Hill Road amount to \$3,200.00. There will be additional invoices for January and February 2022, which will require a request for reserve fund transfer.

Signatures Required: None

DPH – Interagency Updates – COVID test kits:

Ms. Martin provided notes from Interagency DPH meetings, which included information for ordering test kits. To access the federal program for free home test kits, the website address is www.covidtests.gov. The telephone number is 1-800-232-0233.

Wachusett Regional School District is lifting the mask mandate on February 28, 2022.

Update on Water Quality – Ryan Mouradian:

DPW Superintendent Mouradian attended the meeting to speak on the topic of elevated levels of lead and copper in the water of some homes/businesses during the most recent compliance sampling period. Lead can get into the water through solder used in plumbing fixtures in homes built in the 1980's and early 90's. Homes that are most likely to have lead in tap water are tested twice each year. Mr. Mouradian suggested any homeowner concerned about lead in their water run their tap water for approximately 30 seconds before using. A flyer on this topic was sent to homeowners with their most recent water bill.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

7 Tanglewood Road 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 (777 sq. ft. of Presby type system provided with no stone beneath pipes).

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405(1)(g): Reduction in the offset from the S.A.S. to Wetland: 100' required, 80' proposed. Reduction in the offset between the septic tank to the wetlands: 100' is required, 77' is proposed.

310 CMR 15.405(1)(h): Approving authority may reduce the required 5-foot offset between the bottom of the proposed S.A.S. and the E.S.H.W.T. (Provided - 4')

310 CMR 15.405(1)(i): Use of a sieve and hydrometer analysis as an alternative to a percolation test.

310 CMR 15.405(1)(j): Separation between the tank inverts and groundwater, 12" is required. We are proposing the inverts below the groundwater. The tank will be sealed and tested for leakage prior to issuance of Certificate of Compliance.

Engineer Chris Knuth explained the plan for this proposed Presby system.

An alternative technology (Presby) deed recording shall be recorded prior to issuance of a construction permit.

Members reviewed the plan and Ms. Martin made a motion to approve as presented. Ms. Catalano seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous vote.

140 Redstone Hill Road Variance Request:

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h): Approving authority may reduce the required 4-foot offset between the bottom of the proposed S.A.S. And the E.S.H.W.T. (Provided - 3').

310 CMR 15.405(1)(i): Use of a sieve and hydrometer analysis as an alternative to a percolation test.

310 CMR 15.405(1)(j): Reduction of required 12' separation between inlet/outlet tees and E.S.H.W.T. (Provided - 0")

Jack Maloney, Engineer with Dillis and Roy, represented Davis Farmland owners on this variance request. A Presby system is proposed for this 7-bedroom apartment building.

An alternative technology (Presby) deed recording shall be recorded prior to issuance of a construction permit.

After review, Ms. Catalano made a motion to approve the variance with local upgrades as requested. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hoffman - aye; Catalano - aye; Martin - aye. Motion carried.

7 Elliot Road 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 (624 sq. ft. of Presby type system provided with no stone beneath pipes).

Reg. IV.e. Requires an effluent filter tee. A dual compartment tank proposed as added filtration in lieu of effluent filter.

Engineer Evan Carbone of Innovative Septic Design spoke on this variance request for a Presby system. An alternative technology (Presby) deed recording shall be recorded prior to issuance of a construction permit.

Members reviewed the plan. Ms. Martin made a motion to approve as presented and Ms. Catalano seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous vote.

FY23 Budget Discussion:

Health Agent Favreau updated Board members on the budget, to reflect a 3% longevity increases for two BOH employees, and a 3%, COLA for all employees. Chairman Hoffman made a motion to revise the salary recommendations to include the 3% longevity increases and Ms. Martin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hoffman - aye; Martin - aye; Catalano - aye. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Favreau gave an update on the 28 Worcester Road property. Occupants have vacated the shed on the property and are now living in the house.

Review of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date:

Mr. Hoffman noted he would be preparing a draft letter to be sent to any location with clothing bins on their property, advising of a proposed \$50 licensing fee.

Ms. Catalano has prepared draft stable regulations for review.

The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Butterick Building.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.