

October 13, 2022  
Sterling Board of Health Meeting  
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room  
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:07 PM                      The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allen Hoffman.

**Roll Call:**                      Allen Hoffman, Chairman – present  
Anne Marie Catalano, Member – present  
Cathie Martin, Member – present  
David Favreau, Health Agent – present  
Elaine Heller, Administrative Assistant – absent

**Attendees:**                      Kathleen Gallinger

**General Business Updates:**

**Approve Any Available Minutes - August 11, 2022 and September 8, 2022:**

A motion to accept revised minutes of the August 11, 2022 meeting was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Motion carried.  
Martin made a motion to accept minutes, as written, of the September 8, 2022 meeting. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous vote.

**Correspondence: Onyx Corp. Chocksett Road re: Dust Complaints:**

The Board has received written complaints in regard to this stone-crushing operation and the amount of dust created while operating at the site as trucks drag the dust out on the road. Onyx has contracted with a sweeping company to address the problem. The Select Board has requested a representative from Onyx Corp. attend their next meeting and a BOH representative will also attend. This topic will be on the next Board of Health agenda for follow-up.

**Health Agent Report: Update on Summons; Annual Seasonal Flu Clinic Update; Sterling Nursing Home Fay Spofford Update:**

There is a pre-trial hearing on the August 2<sup>nd</sup> assault and battery by Jeff Curtis on Health Agent Favreau, scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2022.  
The annual seasonal flu clinic held on October 12, 2022 at the Senior Center was well attended.  
Fay Spofford reviews the septic system at Sterling Nursing Home bi-annually. There are still questions on the system, per an update by the Health Agent. This subject will be discussed at next month's meeting.

**64 South Nelson Road: Request for Construction Permit Extension:**

The construction permit is good for 3 years and a one-time 1-year extension is being requested. A motion to grant a 1-year extension was made by Catalano and seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: Catalano – aye; Martin – aye; Hoffman – aye. Motion carried.

**Signatures Required:** None

DPH – Interagency Updates:

MA DPH is now holding bi-monthly meetings with the focus on available services.

Other Items:

The soil testing schedule is full, every Tuesday and Thursday through December.

There is a rabies clinic scheduled for November 5, 2022.

Rodent Concerns: The BOH office has received several calls regarding rodent concerns at various locations in town. It is noted that many residents have chicken coops, chickens attract rats, food supplies draw rats, bird feeders as well. Sterling does not have regulations on chickens and management of chickens.

Ms. Catalano will contact the Animal Inspector and Animal Control Officer for their input on how to handle this situation.

12 Main Street: Review of Title 5 Inspection Report Discrepancy of Bedroom Count: A title 5 inspection was performed. There are 8 bedrooms at the residence, but the septic is permitted for 6 bedrooms only. A notice will be sent to the property owners that a deed restriction for 6 bedrooms will be required. The Health Agent will follow up.

57 Kendall Hill Road: Review of Title 5 Inspection Report Discrepancy of Bedroom Count: Assessors surveyed this property in 2007 and there was a 4-bedroom count. There is now a 5<sup>th</sup> bedroom. A notice will be sent to the homeowners in regard to a 4-bedroom deed restriction which will be placed on the property.

Presence of Cyanobacteria (algae) cells in West Waushacum Pond: Blue-green algae was found in the water at West Waushacum Pond. Notices have been posted around the area.

**Appointments and Agenda Items:**

24 Ford 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 (1066 sq. ft. of Presby-type system provided with no stone beneath pipes).

No one appeared before the Board on this variance request. After review of the plans, Martin made a motion to accept the plan as stated and Catalano seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin – aye; Catalano – aye; Hoffman – aye. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Hoffman noted that as of November 1, 2022, the state is banning the disposal of textiles, such as clothing, towels and mattresses, in state landfills.

Kathleen Gallinger of 161 Rowley Hill Road, appeared before the Board in regard to a detached accessory dwelling unit that needs a special permit from the Zoning Board. This is for an existing structure on the property. There is also an existing 3-bedroom home on the property with a newer well and septic system.

Ms. Gallinger asked about an existing non-conforming well which is less than 100 feet to the septic systems and any potential problems associated with this well.

Health Agent Favreau noted that when the new house was built, the old house was to be torn down and the old septic system abandoned. This was not done.

Two title 5 reports have been done, but nothing has been filed with the Board of Health office to date.

**Review of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date:** Meeting date: November 10, 2022, at 6:00 PM.

**Adjourn:** Martin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Catalano. Unanimous. Adjourned at 7:15 PM.