

February 9, 2023
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:00 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 – present

Attendees: Dan Wolfe, Terry Heinold, Mitch Dube, Chris Knuth, Lauren and Tim Hanrahan,
Bruce Fortin, Chris Anderson, and Ed Brodmerkle

General Business Updates:

Approve Any Available Minutes: January 12, 2023:

After review, Martin made a motion to approve minutes of the January 12, 2023, as written. Catalano seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous vote.

Correspondence: None

Health Agent Report: Annual FinCom Report:

The Finance Committee procedure for review of Department budgets changed this year, and the Health Agent and Board Chair were not required to attend a budget meeting as the Finance Committee was satisfied with the Board of Health budget as presented.

Signatures Required: Health Agent Performance Review:

After review by Board members, the Health Agent's Performance Review was signed.

DPH - Interagency Updates:

New COVID variants continue to appear, but vaccinations are helping greatly.
Influenza vaccinations have increased by 14% since the 2021-2022 season.
There is no push for public health to do booster clinics.

Other Items: None

Variance Request: 27 Beaman Road:

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 CMR15.405(1)(i): A sieve analysis may be performed if a perc test cannot be performed.

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV.f., 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).

Engineer Chris Knuth presented the plans for a Presby system for this 4-bedroom home. He noted the water line cannot be located. This was discussed with Board members. Hoffman made a motion to grant approval of the variance request, and the engineer to certify, in writing, that the location of the water line and offset requirements are found prior to construction of the system. Martin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hoffman - aye; Martin - aye; Catalano - aye. With all members in favor, the motion carried.

Variance Request: 22 James Road:

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h): Reduction of the required 5-foot separation (in soils with a recorded percolation rate of two minutes or less per inch) 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)(g): Reduction of system location setbacks from water supply lines, private water supply wells (but 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; 62 feet proposed.

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV.f., Leaching facilities 0-1,499 GPD shall be constructed with the following minimum 5-foot separation (in soils with a recorded percolation rate of two minutes or less per inch) distance to estimated seasonal high groundwater (3 feet separation is proposed).

The plans for a Presby system with a 1500-gallon tank were submitted by Engineer Chris Anderson from Hannigan Engineering for this 3-bedroom home. Mr. Anderson spoke with Conservation Commission members who are okay with the plan. After review, Martin made a motion to approve the plan as presented and Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Catalano - aye. Motion carried.

Variance Request: 108 Maple Street:

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 perc test cannot be performed.

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV.f., 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).

Dan Wolfe of David Ross Associates spoke on this system, which was installed in the Spring of 2020. The system shifted uphill a small amount, which was noticed by Engineer Steve Sears of David Ross when he went out to the property to photograph the as-built. Members reviewed the plans and a motion to approve, retroactively, to the original installation of the system, was made by Catalano and seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: Catalano - aye; Martin - aye; Hoffman - aye. Unanimous vote.

Discuss Licensed Installer Actions at 108 Maple Street:

According to Health Agent Favreau, the installer of the system at 108 Maple Street, Rick Malone, installed the system and altered the installation after Board of Health approval of the plan. Mr. Dan Wolf of Ross Associates, in attendance, commented that they, the design engineers, were not notified of the change during construction and did not feel comfortable issuing a Certificate of Compliance with these

changes. Regulations require that an installer must get approval from the Engineer and the Board of Health before a plan is changed.

Members discussed suspension of the installer's license for a period of 6 months to one year. There have been no issues previous to this instance. Mr. Hoffman made a motion to suspend the installer's license for a period of 6 months with the right to appeal the suspension. Ms. Catalano seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hoffman - aye; Catalano - aye; Martin - aye. All members were in favor; motion carried.

46 Main Street: Discuss Septic Issue at 46 Main Street:

This property is currently for sale by the homeowners. The septic system is a cesspool, which cannot be expanded. Initial review of records indicated this property as a 1-bedroom home, but the homeowners, who purchased the home in 2018, state it has 2 bedrooms. After a thorough review of the records, an old building permit from 1985 identifies the home as having 2 bedrooms.

Water records for the years 2000 through 2020 were obtained from the DPW and Mr. Hoffman determined the gallons used per day. In 2020, GPD was 146. He also obtained usage from the past 2 years, which show 95 GPD.

Board members agreed that the homeowners must obtain a 2-bedroom deed restriction to enable them to sell the home as 2 bedrooms. The homeowners agreed to pursue this endeavor.

Review of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Date:

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Butterick Building.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Martin and seconded by Catalano. All members were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.