

June 10, 2021
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Lower Level Conference Room
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:34 PM In the absence of Chairwoman Martin, member Allen Hoffman called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

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

Attendees:

On site - James Densmore, Laura Ricci, Dan Proctor, and Joe Curtin
Remote – Arden Sonnenberg, Carol Hoffman, Judy Reynolds, Pam Donaldson, Cassandra Correia

David Favreau and Gary Menin announced they would be recording the meeting.

General Business Updates:

Approve Any Available Minutes:

In the absence of Ms. Martin, approval of minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

Correspondence/Health Agent Report:

24 Kendall Hill Road: Health Agent Favreau commented that an application form for the BOH to witness a third Title 5 inspection had been submitted and had been scheduled for 10:00 AM on June 1, 2021. Mr. Moore, the Board's Alternate Agent, went to witness the inspection as requested. Mr. Moore arrived on site shortly after the committed time; as he walked from his car to the rear of the property to witness this inspection, the hired Title 5 Inspector walked from around the back side of the residence and advised Mr. Moore that the inspection was cancelled as the homeowners changed their mind.

Homeowners of 12 Jewett Road, a 2-bedroom home, had appealed a denial of the Board of Health to sign a building permit for adding an additional bedroom. They sought soil evaluations in order to provide a valid reserve area. The water table was too high and a perc test could not be performed supporting a valid reserve area.

Signatures Required: None

Other Items:

Mosquito control – The Department of Public Health has published a surveillance response plan. Mr. Hoffman proposed the plan be added to the BOH webpage for resident information.

James Densmore, of 162 Princeton Road, attended the meeting. He had filed a complaint about rats residing at 146 Princeton Road, which, he believes, have become a nuisance in the neighborhood.

Health Agent Favreau visited the property twice, and the Building Inspector and Fire Dept. representatives have also checked the property and are formalizing a response as to their findings, which will be made available to the public.

Mr. Menin visited Mr. Densmore's property and dropped off a rat trap. He suggested the BOH ask for a site walk at 146 Princeton Road to confirm a rat infestation. Mr. Hoffman thought it would be best to wait for the response from the Building Inspector. Mr. Favreau will provide the response to Board members when available.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

45 Kendall Hill Road Variance Request:

Local Upgrade Request: 310 CMR 15.405(1)(i): A lab test (sieve analysis) of soil may be performed instead of conducting a percolation test due to high ground water in the most restrictive soil layer. Dan Proctor appeared before the Board as the agent for the homeowners. After review of the plans and discussion, Menin made a motion to approve the variance and Hoffman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hoffman – aye; Menin – aye. Motion carried.

Discuss Protective Bylaw Changes – Joe Curtin:

Mr. Curtin, representing the ZBA, attended the meeting to explain the aquifer bylaw changes proposed by the ZBA and to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting on June 14, 2021.

Sterling resident Laura Ricci questioned the status of draft regulations for clothing bins. Mr. Hoffman had volunteered to formalize the language of the regulation and submitted a draft regulation for review at the February 2020 meeting. Mr. Favreau explained that the Board experienced an unexpected change in the organization with a new BOH member and the unanticipated COVID pandemic, which changed the direction of the Board of Health and added to a delay in formalizing the regulation.

Ms. Ricci became visibly upset and was shouting at Mr. Hoffman. Health Agent Favreau offered to send Ms. Ricci a copy of the draft regulation and advised her, as he had done in a recent email to her, that the topic of the clothing bin regulation will be discussed at the July meeting. She was asked to leave the meeting due to her disruptive behavior.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Hoffman and seconded by Menin. Roll call vote: Hoffman – aye; Menin – aye. Unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.