

May 10, 2018
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Room 205
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA 01564

Meeting Minutes

4:00 PM Chairman Donna Clark called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Donna Clark, Chair - present
Gary Menin, Vice-Chair - present
Allen Hoffman, Member - present
David Favreau, Health Agent - present
Elaine Heller, Admin. Asst. - present

Attendees: Town Administrator Ross Perry, Selectman John Kilcoyne,
Jean Robertson, Linnea Stangas, Michael Stangas, Jane Dube,
John Dube, Eric LaFlamme, Holly Shaw

Gary Menin noted that he is recording the proceedings of the meeting. David Favreau also noted he is recording this meeting.

Approve Any Available Minutes:

A motion to approve minutes of the February 8, 2018 meeting, with changes noted, was made by Allen Hoffman and seconded by Gary Menin. Allen - aye; Gary - aye; Donna Clark abstained as she was not present at that meeting. Motion carried.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

3 Princeton Road Complaint:

A telephone complaint was filed by Michael Stangas, an abutter to the 3 Princeton Road property. He indicated that he has noticed Norway rats on this property, which have now migrated to his property. Three Princeton Road is uninhabited at this time and is in the hands of Stage One Investors, LLC, who have taken over the tax title.

Gary Menin made a motion to open a discussion regarding the performance of an inspection of the property. Donna Clark seconded the motion. Allen Hoffman recused himself as he is an abutter. The motion carried.

According to Town Administrator Ross Perry, Stage One cleaned up the outside of the property recently, and he has been told a sale of the property is imminent. Mr. Perry has called the MA Assistant Attorney General regarding the abandoned house initiative and has contacted town counsel, who indicated if there is a violation of the state sanitary code, Stage One Investors, once notified, would have 90 days to clean up the property. Town Counsel also advised that Board of Health members cannot enter the house unless invited or obtain a warrant.

After further discussion, Gary Menin made a motion that the BOH prepare a letter to Stage One, of code violations, listing the vermin infestation, and requiring the property be cleaned of both exterior and interior debris and waste, and provide a remediation compliance of timetable 7 days. Donna Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3 Fox Run Complaint:

A formal complaint was filed by David Duarte regarding a septic failure at 3 Fox Run. Health Agent Favreau and BOH member Gary Menin performed a walk-through of the property and noted leakage of the septic system. The homeowner, Michael Rivers, was present at the meeting and commented that he will have the system checked and asked that the BOH email him a list of installers. Mr. Favreau recommended limited water usage until the system is fixed.

Allen Hoffman made a motion that Mr. Rivers attend the next Board meeting, scheduled for June 14, 2018, and provide an update on the situation, or give that information in writing. He also said the system needs to be pumped prior to the June BOH meeting. Donna Clark seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Discuss Scheduling of Inspections:

Holly Shaw, of Favreau Septic, attended the meeting to discuss expediting inspections being done by the Alternate Septic Inspector. Health Agent Favreau commented that the Alternate Inspector has been out sick for a few weeks and the BOH is relying on MPH N for these inspections. MPH N no longer has their own inspector, so they are getting inspectors from other areas. Allen Hoffman suggested Holly provide her requests on Thursday in order to have inspections the following Tuesday. She will be given priority once the Alternate Inspector returns.

Discuss Permitting and Licensing Late Fee Policy Revision and Sign Policy:

A review and discussion of this policy was performed and the policy was signed.

Health Agent Report:

28-32 Swett Hill Road System Installation:

The Health Agent provided an update on this property, which is new construction. Three inspections were done in December, but the system was not completed. At this time the system is being redone and all issues are being corrected.

Recognize Efforts of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Barry Lein:

It had been suggested at a previous meeting that the Health Agent speak with the Town Administrator and inquire as to whether he would consider a gift certificate for Mr. Lein in recognition of an outstanding presentation he had given at a walk-through of Houghton School, outlining how the school would serve as an emergency dispensing site, if needed.

Mr. Perry remarked that he does not want to set a precedent with a gift certificate. After further discussion, Mr. Hoffman suggested the Board take Mr. Lein and his wife out to dinner and all agreed to this arrangement.

82 Kendall Hill Road Design Resubmittal:

A discussion was held on the design resubmittal of plans at this address, increasing the bedroom count to four. Previous submittal granted variances, no variances allowed for new construction or increased flow. The design must be submitted for approval without variance. Mr. Favreau will advise the applicant to resubmit.

Signatures Required:

All necessary paperwork was signed.

Appointments and Agenda Items (continued):

Rights of Way Vegetation Management Herbicide Spraying - Gary Menin:

As he had brought up in several earlier meetings, Mr. Menin remains concerned about roadside herbicide spraying being done by the state and the town DPW. He cited CMR codes which state the DPW needs a plan regarding spraying. Health Agent Favreau recently spoke with DPW Superintendent Tuttle, who noted spraying is done only as needed.

Mr. Hoffman commented that this part of the CMR rules does not fall directly under the Board's jurisdiction. He would like to know what other towns have for plans and if there are other health departments and departments of public works involved in this. He would like more backup information. Mr. Menin will do some research and contact the agricultural department to determine if other towns have submitted plans.

Discussion of the Subject: Invasive Species Giant Hogweed - Gary Menin:

Mr. Menin lead a discussion on this subject, noting sap from this plant can cause severe burning. Giant Hogweed can grow up to 15 feet. Though this plant has been found in other Massachusetts towns, it has not yet been seen in Sterling, according to DCR (V. Vignally).

Discuss Green Side of Smart Growth - Gary Menin:

This discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Allen Hoffman and seconded by Gary Menin. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.