

August 3, 2023
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Room 205
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 – absent
David Favreau, Health Agent – present
Elaine Heller, Administrative Assistant – present

Attendees: Jack Maloney and Gail Hassett

The Meeting was recorded by SLCT.

General Business Updates:

Approve Any Available Minutes: July 6, 2023:

A motion to approve minutes, as revised, was made by Hoffman and seconded by Catalano. Roll call vote: Hoffman - aye; Catalano - aye. Unanimous vote.

Health Agent Report: BOH Informational Letter. Arbovirus Surveillance:

An informational letter (fact sheet) has been distributed to Sterling's general population with the Light Department billing.

There is a link on the town website relating to Arbovirus Surveillance within the Commonwealth. The Health Agent reported there have been no cases of EEE or West Nile Virus in Sterling to date.

Signatures: None

DPH - Interagency Updates:

Ms. Catalano provided information on tick diseases. The lone star tick accounts for 5% of ticks found in Massachusetts. To prevent tick bites, Ms. Catalano suggested avoiding grassy, wooded areas, and standing water is a problem. There have been 15 mosquitos testing positive for West Nile Virus as of July 31, but no instances in humans.

Anne Marie also spoke of Alpha-gal Syndrome, which is a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that may occur following some tick bites. Symptoms occur after people eat red meat or are exposed to other products containing alpha-gal (a sugar molecule found in most mammals). Symptoms include hives or rash, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, drop in blood pressure, to name a few.

Other Items:

Mr. Hoffman mentioned that handouts on elder abuse, which was discussed at the last meeting, are available at the Senior Center.

Health Agent Favreau commented that Title 5 Inspections are scheduled with 1-2 days that the application is received. This is the same time frame for inspections for all permitted inspections. The time frame for new construction soil testing is approximately one month. New construction soil evaluation is more involved and requires more soil testing.

Appointments and Agenda Items:

Variance Request: 169 Beaman Road

Sterling Subsurface Sewage Disposal Regulations: Reg. IV.g., 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). Reg. IV.a., Leach beds to be 1000 square feet minimum, with 12" of stone beneath the pipes (640 sq. ft. provided).

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).

Jack Maloney of Dillis and Roy spoke on this variance request for a Presby system. Plans were reviewed by the Health Agent and meet necessary requirements. A motion to accept the plan as presented was made by Catalano and seconded by Hoffman. Roll call vote: Catalano - aye; Hoffman - aye. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM in Room 205 of the Butterick Building.

Other Items (continued):

Sterling resident Gail Hassett asked if terminology has been changed in regard to observation holes. As noted during a past meeting, any change cannot be made until a public hearing is held.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Catalano and seconded by Hoffman. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Materials: Minutes