

December 8, 2016
Sterling Board of Health Meeting
Butterick Building, Room 205
1 Park Street, Sterling, MA. 01564

Meeting Minutes

6:30 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: Dolores Rich

Approve Available Minutes:

A motion to approve minutes, as amended, of the November 10, 2016 meeting was made by Gary Menin and seconded by Allen Hoffman. Menin - aye; Hoffman - aye; Donna Clark abstained as she was not present at that meeting.

A motion to approve minutes, as amended, of the October 20, 2016 meeting was made by Allen Hoffman and seconded by Donna Clark; Hoffman - aye; Clark - aye; Gary Menin abstained as he was not present at the meeting.

A motion to approve minutes, as amended of the September 8, 2016 meeting was made by Allen Hoffman and seconded by Gary Menin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

General Business:

Health Agent Favreau advised Board members that Houghton School had received a bomb threat this morning, December 8, 2016. A proper evacuation was performed and procedures followed. Sterling resident Dolores Rich raised a concern regarding the way the threat was handled.

Ms. Rich, 60 Clinton Road, appeared before the Board to express her concerns regarding issues with the Foley property at 38 Clinton Road. Ms. Rich noted that, according to boundary markers, he is infringing on her property. After discussion, Board members advised her, this not a Board of Health issue and she should address her concerns with Mr. Foley. Mr. Menin considered - failing resolution of the issue between Ms. Rich and Mr. Foley directly - that it wouldn't be inappropriate to call the Sterling Police.

Ms. Rich also spoke of an oil discharge from machinery that she discovered on top of the hill on December 6, 2016, as well as water flowing onto her property after excavation work has been done. Health Agent Favreau was given permission by Ms. Rich to walk the property a day or two after it rains to check for diversion of water and also to check for an oil discharge. In this regard, Mr. Menin noted that (permanent or temporary) diversion of runoff to an adjacent lot is a violation of the State Building Code and he suggested that Ms. Rich take up the matter with the Building Department.

Health Agent Report:

Commonwealth vs. Mike Cove

Health Agent Favreau attended the December 2, 2016 court date and advised the Board the matter has been continued until January 3, 2017. When Mr. Menin questioned why the process was taking so long (over a year to this point), Mr. Favreau indicated that the court system is processing this legal matter.

January 11, 2017 BOH Annual Meeting with BOS

Mr. Favreau mentioned all Board members are welcome to attend this meeting. The meeting will be a discussion of goals, roadblocks, etc., in which the BOS could assist.

Emergency Preparedness Call-Down Drill from 11/21/16

The Health Agent indicated this drill was a public health call-down drill in the event of an incident. BOH members Allen Hoffman, Donna Clark and Health Agent David Favreau participated in the drill; however, Gary Menin stated his phone was not powered on.

Other Items

A proposed plan for a septic system at 24 Clinton Road has been received, as well as an independent soil review to address Mr. Menin's previous concerns about the (inconsistent) soil logs reviewed for the upgraded system design. Members have reviewed the plan. Mr. Menin noted that the real estate agent currently has the property listed for sale as two 4-bedroom units. The new septic system is designed for a total of six bedrooms. Mr. Favreau will request floor plans from the homeowner in order to obtain clarification of this matter.

Discuss FY18 BOH and Animal Inspector Budget

The Health Agent provided budget worksheets, which were reviewed and discussed by Board members.

Mr. Favreau noted the current alternate Food Inspector, Richard Gibbons, is no longer able to provide this service. Mr. Hoffman suggested that the BOH investigate hiring someone to provide alternate food inspection services as well as to provide an alternate backup to the Health Agent on septic system inspections.

The next meeting of the MPHNN (Montachusett Public Health Network) is scheduled for December 14, 2016. A fee increase for 2017 has not been finalized to date. Discussion was held on the potential increase and the charge for inspections done by Rita McConville, the MPHNN inspector. Mr. Favreau will obtain a figure for how often Rita was used this current year.

The Animal Inspector salary will be increased. The request for a \$250 FY17 increase was inadvertently omitted from the current fiscal year budget and will be addressed by a special town meeting article. This correction will occur in the FY18 budget. Mr. Favreau will provide a copy of the budget for FY17 to confirm the amount.

Mr. Hoffman suggested \$1500 be removed from the Wachusett Home Health Care line item and delete that line item. That amount should be added to the MPHNN line item. Mr. Menin questioned the possibility of a duplication of these efforts with those of the Senior Center.

Health Agent Favreau noted that an excess of \$20,000 in revenue from inspections and permits have been generated in the past six months.

The Budget deadline is January 11, 2017. Mr. Favreau will prepare a draft of budget information and present it to Board members for their review during the next BOH meeting, which is scheduled for January 5, 2017 at 6:30 PM in order to meet the deadline.

A suggestion was made that the town's water resource issue be added to the agenda; another viable source of water is needed. Mr. Favreau noted the DPW is currently working on this problem for a future meeting with the BOH and BOS.

Chocksett Crossing - Chairwoman Clark is to sign a deed restriction.

Newsletter

Members reviewed the first edition of the BOH newsletter and gave their approval with minor editorial comment. Copies will be distributed at various town locations.

Other

The minutes of the August 11, 2016 meeting were reviewed, with further clarification needed. These minutes were put on hold until the next meeting.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Allen Hoffman and seconded by Gary Menin. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.