



**Town of Mendon
Board of Health
20 Main St. Mendon
Minutes for
July 21, 2016**

Chairman Andy Fiske called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Alan Greenberg - Vice Chairman, Tom Fichtner - BOH Member

Location – Selectmen’s meeting room – 20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756

Tom Ryder Board of Health Engineer and Liz Sjogren of Microbac Laboratories were also present. A few residents from around Lake Nipmuc were in attendance.

Due to a failed e-coli test at the beach during the July 4th holiday week and in response to concerns raised by the Parks Dept. & others, the Board initiated a change in the meeting schedule so as to move up the next planned meeting to July 21st (today). Understanding the importance of the topic, the Board decided to limit the agenda to this topic only to allow all related discussions to come forth.

Liz explained the process of taking a water sample. Typically, the person will go in with waders or swimming suit. They go out so far and the sample is taken 12 inches below water surface. This is considered a source water sample so the lab must receive it within 8 hours of sampling. Only one sample is currently taken in the required 100 ml container and the sample is analyzed under the 9223 standards. Tests are performed once a week, unless there is a failure. Then, tests would be done each subsequent day until the results are satisfactory. Testing is done for e-coli only. Ecoli is found in the intestines of human and warm blooded animals. The Board of Health is guided by state regulation CMR 105.445.

The Board asked residents in attendance if they had noticed a large presence of Canadian Geese. The response was most definitely yes. Some residents had purchased fencing to put along their property and so far it has been working. The Board tasked Missy with reaching out to Dan Byer (Park’s Dept. Director) to determine if animals are allowed on the beach. Also, the Board wanted to know if geese have been on the docks and beach area and if so, what is the clean up procedure that the beach personnel follow?

Liz brought up the idea of doing a composite sampling. Four samples would be taken in different areas of the bathing water at the beach and combined into one test result. This would provide a more averaged result as far as the overall level of e-coli in the water. There was also discussion regarding the specific day that the sample is taken. Typically, it is Monday. The Board wondered if taking the sample after the weekend where there is a lot of activity going on might stir up the water. The Board asked if they could schedule a particular day of the week such as Wednesday and change the sampling to be tested as a composite. Liz said to just send her an email for the changes desired and they would look to accommodate.

Alan made a motion to change the sample day to Wednesday and to try the composite sampling for a little while. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried.

The Board raised concerns about results that indicate a failure one day (high reading of e-coli) and then getting an almost perfect reading the next day. The question of a leaking septic system as being a root cause was posed to Liz. Liz told the Board that if there was a leaking septic system generating fecal matter into the water, the test results would be 8 to 10 times higher than the state limit of 235. Even a result that is double or triple the State limit does not definitively indicate that a leaking septic system is the cause. Our results at this time are not high enough to suspect a septic system leaking into the lake.

The Board thanked Liz for coming. The Board, along with those in attendance, learned a lot and appreciated very much taking the time to meet with them to address this important issue.

Next meeting will be August 3, 2016.

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Approved August 3, 2016