



Town of Mendon Board of Health Minutes for April 1, 2020

Andy Fiske, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Alan Greenberg -Vice Chairman Tom Fichtner - BOH Member, Missy Kakela-Boisvert, Sr. Administrative Assistant to BOH,

Location – Conference Call number 774-462-5991 Participates number 1233

13 Blackstone Street – Tom Ryder has reviewed the plans and has approved the Local Upgrades being requested. Alan made a motion to approve the septic plan submitted as approved by BOH Engineer Tom Ryder. Tom seconds the motion. All members agree. Motion carried.

COVID-19 – The Board has received confirmation of COVID-19 positive cases in the Town of Mendon. The Board discussed the topic of providing the actual case count to the residents. Missy had noted to the Board that the Department of Public Health's recommendation is to not provide case counts. It was also noted that the DPH does provide numbers by County on their website. However, it would be up to the local Board of Health to decide if COVID-19 case count information would be provided. Missy noted that while on a weekly DPH conference call, it was communicated that, with small towns especially, announcing positive cases by town could lead to compromising the privacy of those who are positive and in some cases could result in negative backlash such as cyberbullying.

Since the Board had decided to provide confirmation of COVID-19 positive cases to residents, Tom F. has the view that the Board should provide the actual case count of positive COVID-19 cases as well, as it gives a level of honesty and trust. Tom also supports the recommendation put forth by Missy to provide COVID-19 updates on a weekly basis and agreed with using the website as the method of communicating any COVID-19 information. Andy & Alan also agreed with the method of communication & the frequency, as it relates to COVID-19.

Alan's view is that if the DPH has asked Boards of Health to follow their recommendation than that's what the Boards should do. Alan also feels that giving numbers by Town can give a false sense of security. If we only report one case, people might think it's okay to go easy on social distancing and other precautions and if we report high numbers it could also go the other way and residents might panic. Alan did also state that if the situation were to change such as numbers increasing or there are indications of a community cluster then he would be open to Expanding the reported information. Andy agreed with Alan about not reporting any additional information at this time.

Tom inquired about community engagement from the standpoint of what kind of feedback has there been from residents or businesses regarding issues or concerns. Missy responded that there has been some inquiries from residents but overall not a great deal. The communication from the business aspect has been even less.

Missy confirmed that the BOH has received a check for \$3,000.00. This was received as part of funding support from the State for COVID-19 related needs. A question was raised as to whether this money could be used for actual supplies or if it was just for expanded service needs. Missy

will validate. In addition, the discussion led to what Milford Hospital may be implementing to address COVID-19 needs. Tom did provide some feedback, as he has been in contact with Milford Hospital personnel. Both Andy & Alan inquired about the ability to donate blood. Tom would look to get confirmation.

The office received an email from a local florist inquiring about being able to take credit card orders over the phone and delivering flowers to front steps with no contact to other people involved. In looking at the Emergency Order from the Governor's Office, the Board could not find where flower shops are listed on the "Essential List" so it was not approved by the Board.

Next discussion related to the office being notified by the Town of Uxbridge that they will only allow haulers to dump sewerage in their facility for emergencies. If a property has a tight tank or is in failure, they will allow the hauler to dump. For regular maintenance of the system, the hauler will not be allowed to dump and will have to go elsewhere.

Another issue that Alan brought up was EEE. He has reached out to Max, who is the BOH Animal Inspector, to see if he has any information to share with the Board or other horse owners. Max is hoping to have something for the next meeting.

Next meeting will be April 8, 2020.

Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Approved April 15, 2020

To: Mendon Board of Health

From: Tom Ryder

Date: March 23, 2020

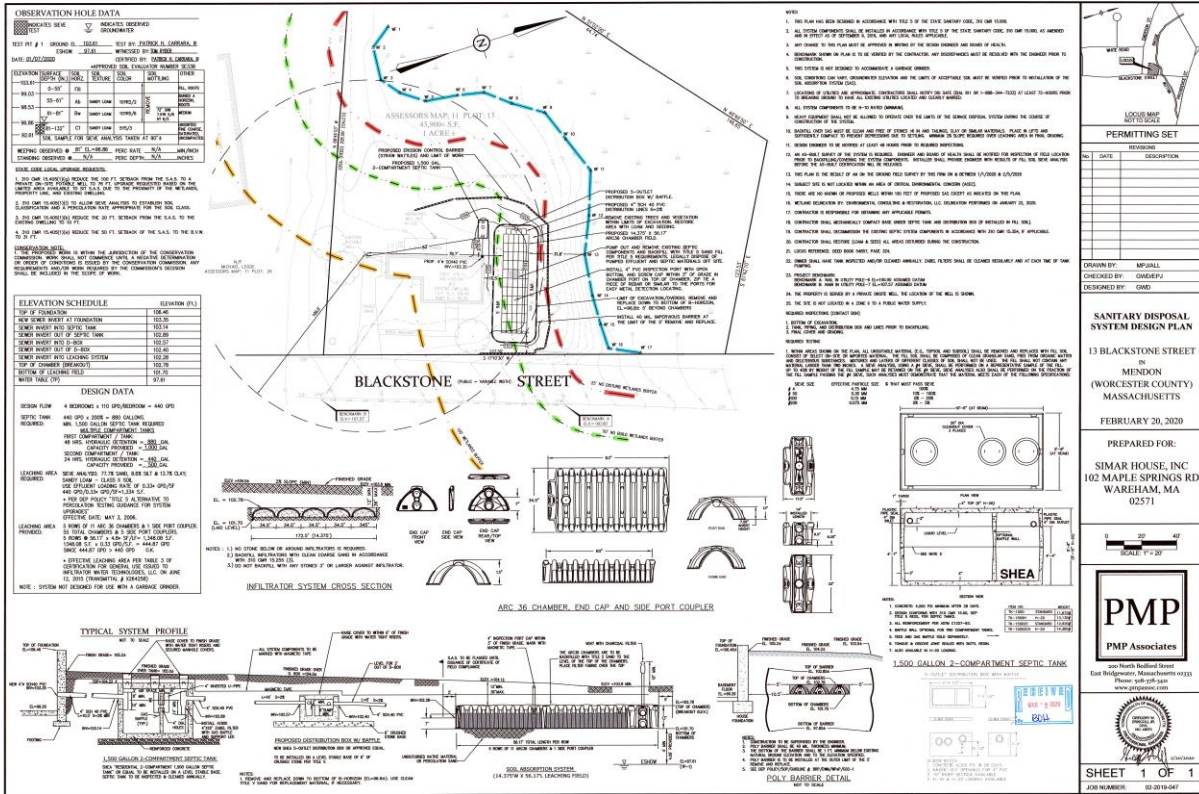
**Re: Mendon Board of Health Plan Review
13 Blackstone Street-Local upgrade**

The applicant is requesting a Local Upgrade Approval for the proposed septic system repair for the above referenced property. Most recent plans dated 2/20/20.

Title 5 requires that the Soil Absorption System be at least 100-feet from private drinking wells, and 50-foot offset to Bordering Vegetative Wetlands; a 50-foot offset to a private well is allowed and an offset reductions are allowed to BVW under Local Upgrade Approval from the Board of Health.

The applicant is proposing the soil absorption system be 76 -feet from their own well, 31 feet to the BVW. The applicant is also seeking reduction offsets from the soil absorption system to their house foundation of 10.5-feet instead of 20-feet and the use of soil sieve analysis as an alternate to percolation testing.

As this is a repair to upgrade an existing cesspool, and the site limitations create constraints to upgrade to Title 5 new construction standards; I am recommending approval of the Local Upgrade Requests as provided.



DRAFT SCRIPT FOR REMOTELY CONDUCTED OPEN MEETINGS

Confirming Member Access:

As a preliminary matter, this is [Missy Kakela-Boisvert, Sr. Administrative Assistant]. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

- Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.

Andrew Fiske, Alan Greenberg, Thomas Fichtner

Introduction to Remote Meeting:

Good evening. This Open Meeting of [Mendon Board of Health] is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus."

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting [will] feature public comment.

For this meeting, [the Mendon Board of Health] is convening by [telephone conference] as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join.

***For Non-Novus Supported Meetings:** All supporting materials that have been provided members of this body are available on the Town's website unless otherwise noted. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda unless **The Chair** notes otherwise.

Meeting Business Ground Rules

We are now turning to the first item on the agenda. Before we do so, permit me to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

- **I**, will introduce each speaker on the agenda. After they conclude their remarks, the Chair will go down the line of Members, inviting each by name to provide any comment, questions, or motions. Please hold until your name is called. Further,
 - Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking;
 - Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate minutes
- For any response, please wait until the Chair yields the floor to you, and state your name before speaking.
- If members wish to engage in colloquy with other members, please do so through the Chair, taking care to identify yourself.
- **For Items with Public Comment:**

After members have spoken, the Chair will afford public comment as follows:

- The Chair will first ask members of the public who wish to speak to identify their names and addresses only;
- Once the Chair has a list of all public commentators, I will call on each by name and afford 3 minutes for any comments.