



**Town of Mendon
Board of Health
20 Main St. Mendon
Minutes for
August 20, 2014**

Vice Chairman Tom Fichtner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present – Alan Greenberg, BOH member

Not Present – Andy Fiske, Chairman

Location – Panning Board meeting room of Town Hall – 20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756

The agenda for this meeting was to specifically discuss the Senior Citizen discount program. Missy provided some background history as to how the program has operated in the past.

- Applicant or spouse must be 65 years of age or older
- Applicant or spouse must be the homeowner of the property
- Home listed on the application must be the primary residence of the applicant or spouse (No rental properties)
- Number of residents in the home cannot exceed 2.

When the discount was looked at in the early 2000's the Board at the time changed the age from 70 to 65 but all other requirements stayed the same. The Board at the time believed because it was a user's fee it should be based on how much trash is put out and therefore limiting the number of occupants in the house to only two people. They also believed the discount should go to those who owned the property since rentals are hard to keep track if a senior actually resides there. However, past boards did make exception to a few properties since they had been residents for many years.

Tom looked at the discount as a reward in having reached this age milestone and did not want to limit the number in the household to two. Tom stated that there are times when adult children move home whether it is to take care of a senior parent or for financial reasons. In addition, there are times when a parent, who is a senior citizen, must care for a child as well. Tom would like to remove the 2 person limit currently in place. Alan agreed with that viewpoint as well.

Missy also explained that seniors reduce their own bills if they are gone for a long period of time during the billing period or request an abatement. However, both members agreed that they would not support a further reduction of an already awarded discount.

They also agreed that it should be senior occupied, meaning that the senior should be living at the residence and not somewhere else. The property also should be owned by the senior and the Board would review rental properties on a case by case basis.

The Board will have Missy make adjustments to the discount form and send it out to all members for their review. The full Board will review it and decide when this will take effect.

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Approved September 24, 2014