



**Town of Mendon
Board of Health
20 Main St. Mendon
Minutes for
December 17, 2015**

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

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

Location – Board of Health Office– 20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756

31 Talbott Farm Drive – The Board of Health received a failing Title V Inspection for this property by Mike DeCosta of Wind River Environmental. Mr. DeCosta explained to the Board why he feels the system is in failure. John Gibson of Gibson Septic Service, also present at this meeting, was asked by the owner to provide his informal assessment on the system. John showed the Board a video that was taken by use of a mobile camera that was run thru the septic lines. John's assessment is that the system needs to be "tweaked" but he does not believe it classifies as a "failed system". John also suggested that speed levelers should be installed in the D box which would address the issue of fluid not evenly flowing thru all the lines in the leach field. Board of Health Engineer Tom Ryder pointed out that currently there is only a failing Title V Inspection report on record so until the Board receives another formal Title V Inspection report to the contrary, the Board cannot take any action at this time.

170 Blackstone Street – The Board asked Highway Surveyor Alan Tetreault to come in to involve him in discussions regarding the previously reported well issue at this property. Andy gave Alan T. some background as to what was going on. Past communication from the property owners indicated that they believe the high sodium content in their well is a result of road salt applications. Both Alan T. and Tom Ryder, Town Engineer present at the meeting, did support the idea that road salt applications could be a source of high sodium in wells. However, with that said, Alan T. informed the Board that based on DEP guidelines, salt application is a preferred method over sanding because of the effect that road sanding has on the storm water systems. From a public safety perspective, it was understood by all that roads do need to be treated in winter when necessary.

40 Kinsley Lane – Prior to any discussion and for the record, Alan provided a formal disclosure statement that he has a business relationship with Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. is the engineering firm being used by the property owner. Alan stated his belief that he can make an impartial decision on this property. Neither Bob Poxon nor Peter Lavoie from Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. could attend the meeting but the property owner was in attendance. The central issue discussed is whether or not this property consisted of a detached garage or a 1 bedroom home. The owner believes that it's just common sense that it was a one bedroom house prior to 1997 or 1998 according to the Assessors records. Thru discussions, it was suggested that the property owners connect with the Assessor's Office directly to ascertain more information. In addition, based on the belief that the property does have a cesspool, it was suggested that specifically locating this cesspool would aid in supporting the premise that this property did indeed at one time have a bedroom element. The owner will look to identify this cesspool.

Alan gave a report to the other Board members regarding the Selectmen's meeting he attended on December 7th 2015. This meeting was attended by multiple boards and committees. Alan informed attendees at the Selectmen's meeting of the different areas of responsibility that the Board of Health has been working on such as the new Tobacco Regulations that went into effect in August, along with Title V Inspection reporting requirements and active monitoring of properties to ensure Title V Compliancy. Also, the Board is planning to review Private Well Regulations to verify they conform to current needs. Alan told the Board members this type of Selectmen's meeting will be held quarterly and the next meeting will be February 1, 2016.

Tom F. gave a report to the other Board members regarding the Animal Inspectors' meeting he attended the same night that Alan went to the Selectmen's meeting. There were about 20 people in attendance. It was an informative evening with discussions that included Rabies Protocol, HPAI (High Pathogenic Avian Influenza), and Animal Disease Traceability (livestock tagging). In addition, attendees of this Animal Inspectors' meeting were provided information pertaining to the Massachusetts Animal Fund, which is geared toward supporting municipal animal control programs.

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom F. seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Approved January 20, 2016