



**Town of Mendon
Board of Health
20 Main St. Mendon
Minutes for
December 3, 2014**

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

Present: Tom Fichtner - Vice Chairman and Alan Greenberg - BOH member

Location – Planning Board Meeting room– 20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756

34 Blackstone Street – The Board reviewed a request for a local upgrade. The upgrade involved seeking a 3ft.offset from the estimated high groundwater table. They also reviewed the enclosed memo from Tom Ryder (BOH Engineer) giving his approval:

To: Mendon Board of Health

From: Tom Ryder

Date: November 12, 2014

**Re: Mendon Board of Health Plan Review
34 Blackstone Street-Local Upgrade Request**

The applicant is requesting a Local Upgrade Approval for the proposed septic system repair for the above referenced property.

Title 5 requires that the Soil Absorption System is at least 4 feet above the estimated high groundwater table in soils with a greater than 2 minutes per inch perc rate; a 3 foot offset is allowed for repairs under a Local Upgrade Approval from the Board of Health. The applicant is requesting a 3 foot offset from the estimated high groundwater table.

As this is a repair, and system has been maximized and meets all other setbacks; I am recommending approval of the Local Upgrade Request as provided.

Tom F. made a motion to approve the request as approved by Tom Ryder. Alan seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried.

The Board discussed having a public hearing for the proposed changes to the tobacco regulations. The Board would like Missy to reach out to Dr. Hartman to see if any other day of the week, aside from the Monday evening originally provided, will work for him to be able to attend this public hearing.

The Board reviewed the amended Wheelabrator agreement. Missy did question whether or not Town Counsel will have to sign too. She is waiting to hear from Kim Newman (Town Administrator) as to whether this will be necessary.

Tom F. read out loud resident Mike Watson's email concerning the well at Miscoe Hill.

Good Morning,

As you know the water at Miscoe Hill School has not been available for public consumption for some time now due to water quality concerns. It is my understanding that the school district self reports water quality results to the state as a public water supply. Given the recent issues in Milford and the charges brought against the former head of the Milford Water Company by the AGO that resulted in a conviction, self reporting of a public water supply that primarily services children is a concern to some parents in Mendon. This is not to suggest any criminal activity at Miscoe but only suggests that mistakes could be made in the testing and reporting. As you may recall the school district has in the past provided information to public safety officials and residents that was proven to be false or in some cases problematic. The district described these statements at the time as "misspeak". Given the fact that the water has been restricted to hand washing only and drinking and even cooking have been prohibited, outside oversight is warranted. There must but be no "misspeak" around this public health issue and outside verification and oversight will ensure that as it did in the past.

That said, can you please tell me if the Mendon BOH has done an independent test of the well at Miscoe Hill School by way of an outside testing lab and if so what was the result. As our communities public health authority I trust that your independent hands on sampling, testing and investigation of the issue would come as a trusted form of oversight and verification of the process and the water quality.

I have no doubt that you agree that the health of our children in a public school located in Mendon warrants your oversight. I will be making the same request of the Mass DEP.

Thank you in advance for any information you can provide on this issue and for your continued work in ensuring the public health of our children, our residents and our community as a whole.

Best Regards,

Mike Watson
Mendon

CC: File

Defendant Tampered With Water Samples to Get Boil-Water Order Lifted:

<http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2013/2013-05-17-papuga-sentence.html>

Manganese in Massachusetts Drinking Water:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/manganese-in-drinking-water.html>

Manganese in drinking water: Study suggests adverse effects on children's intellectual abilities:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100920074013.htm>

President of Lee Water Testing Company Pleads Guilty, Sentenced in Connection with Falsifying Drinking Water Reports:

<http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2014/2014-04-01-enser-plea.html>

Sent from my iPhone

Missy explained that this well is classified as a Public Water Supply and oversight to public water supplies is performed by MassDEP. As such, the school reports results directly to MassDEP by way of a Certified Water Operator. Samples are analyzed by a state certified laboratory. Tom F. will formulate a formal response to Mr. Watson after a follow up with MassDEP. At this time, further action by the Board will be dependent upon subsequent information obtained thru the MassDEP.

Fred Lapham (Shea Engineering) stopped by to talk to the Board about 88 Park Street. Fred just wanted the Board to be aware of a situation going on between 90 Park Street and 88 Park Street. The well located at 90 Park Street is in such close proximity to the septic system at 88 Park Street. The property at 88 Park Street has a lot of ledge and is a very tight site. Fred has been working with the property owner and the owner's engineer to try and figure out a solution.

The Board asked Missy to ask Tom Ryder if there has been any new developments' regarding 35 Milford Street (Mendon Drive-In) which would bring the system into full Title V Compliancy. Also, the Board has requested Missy to ask Kim Newman to find out from Town Counsel when the Board will receive the files back for 35 Milford Street.

Alan made a motion to approve the minutes from October 29, 2014. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried.

Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Approved December 17, 2014