



## **Town of Mendon Board of Health Minutes for February 12, 2020**

Andy Fiske, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Alan Greenberg -Vice Chairman Tom Fichtner - BOH Member, Jean Berthold – Principal Assessor, Jenn Welch – Treasure/Collector, Lois Luniewicz – WRMRC and Missy Kakela-Boisvert – Sr. Administrative Assistant to the BOH

Location – Board of Health Office– 18 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756

First the Board spoke with Jean Berthold and Jenn Welch about the current trash/recycle program. To note, Jean & Jenn were coming to the Board to provide input from their day-to-day experiences & to present an alternative to the BOH in handling the payment processes. In discussion, it was noted that residents are billed twice a year for service. If the bill is not paid, the address goes on a Non-Pick Up List and trash/recycling service is to stop until the bill is paid. This Non-Pick Up List is also in the possession of the E.L. Harvey & Sons driver.

There are times when E.L. Harvey's driver or Missy go on vacation & the Non-Pick Up List is either not followed or not sent. Jean & Jenn believe the Non-Pick Up List is not followed as much as it should be even on a regular basis, as their view is based on the many times folks are coming in to pay their trash bill well after it was due & saying that their service had never stopped. For example, the last billing was sent out November 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 & due December 16<sup>th</sup> of 2019. Because of the holidays, the Non-Pick Up List went out January 6<sup>th</sup> 2020. We're just about two months from when the bill was due and Jenn still has a lot of people paying their bills and also confirming that their service never stopped. Board Member Tom Fichtner inquired as to the frequency of these events. A definitive amount could not be provided but Jenn referenced the occurrence as being fairly regular. The suggestion was made for a log to be kept so that it could be reviewed down the road for specificity. Jenn confirmed that would be done.

So, Jean and Jenn proposed to the Board that a bill should go to all households. If the household can provide proof that they have a valid & legal way of disposing their trash/recycling, the bill will be "void" & not require payment. Trash bills that go unpaid, by the end of the tax year, will be settled up thru the accounting process. However, the amount of money owed will now be placed on the property owner's real estate bill. In other words, non-payment of trash bills would result in an amount being owed on the property tax side & in essence would create a lien on the property. They explained the Non-Pick Up List would stay the same week to week & the need to send lists daily to them would cease.

In addition, Jean pointed out that she believes the BOH should be determining if the trash/recycling that is being disposed of is being done properly & legally. By implementing this

new system, they feel that it streamlines the accounting process & validates that all households are being held accountable for the proper disposal of their trash/recycling.

Further discussion continued. At the end, the Board thanked them for coming in and talking with them. Jean and Jenn gave the Board some information and would need time to think about it.

Next, Lois Luniewicz of the Worcester Regional Medical Reserve Core came to talk to the Board about her organization. If and when the time comes that the Board of Health would need to open an Emergency Dispensing Site, volunteers would be needed to help staff the site. This staffing need could consist of both medical & non-medical personnel. Lois's organization can help with this volunteer aspect. Lois provided the Board some literature. There were some discussions and questions asked & at the end the Board thanked her for coming in to speak to them.

**56 Cape Road** – Missy gave the Board an update regarding the mold issue at this property. With regards to the mold issue, the owner did what Lenny (BOH Health Agent) asked him to do. So as of now it is all set.

**32 North Avenue** – The office received a call from a gentleman regarding the conditions at this property. His daughter did live there but had moved out. One of the complaints was with the septic system. Health Agent Lenny Izzo along with Missy did look to see if there was any evidence of breakout & there was confirmation of such evidence. The system is a tight tank. Lenny has sent a letter.

**28 Maple Street** – There was request for a local upgrade for 28 Maple Street. Tom Ryder did approve the plans and recommended the request. Alan made a motion to approve the local upgrade as requested. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be February 26, 2020.

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconds the motion. Both members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**To:** Mendon Board of Health

**From:** Tom Ryder

**Date:** February 5, 2020

**Re: Mendon Board of Health Plan Review  
28 Maple Street-Local upgrade**

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The applicant is requesting a Local Upgrade Approval for the proposed septic system repair for the above referenced property. Most recent plans updated 12/20/19.

Title 5 requires that the Soil Absorption System be at least 100-feet from private drinking wells; a 50-foot offset is allowed for repairs under a Local Upgrade Approval from the Board of Health. The applicant is proposing the soil absorption system be 64.8-feet from their own well and the septic tank 45-feet from their well instead of 50-feet. The applicant is also seeking reduction offsets from the soil absorption system to their garage slab of 9-feet instead of 10-feet.

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.