



Town of Mendon
Board of Health
 18 Main Street
 Mendon, MA 01756

MINUTES APPROVED

By Board of Health on
OCTOBER 11, 2023

Board of Health • Meeting Minutes | Tuesday – February 21, 2023

BOARD OF HEALTH	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDED
Alan Greenberg • Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Remote
Tom Fichtner • Vice-Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Remote
Joyce Gilmore • Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Remote
Jack McLellan – Inspectional Svcs. Office Coord. Health Admin.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Remote
MEETING LOCATION		START TIME
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Teams		7:00 PM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mendon Town Hall – Upper Meeting Room • 18 Main Street, Mendon MA		8:35 PM

At 7:01 PM, BOH Meeting has been called to order by Jack McLellan.

Chairman Greenberg thanks Jack and begins with the 1st Item on tonight's agenda.

1st Item on Agenda **Discussion of developing a Lake Nipmuc Task Force in collaboration with the Mendon Conservation Commission, Mendon Parks Commission, Mendon Land/Energy Use Committee, Mendon Community Preservation Committee and the Lake Nipmuc Association**

Chairman Greenberg started off by thanking everyone for attending tonight's meeting especially to the departments and committees in attendance and asks Joyce to start of the discussion.

Joyce thanks everyone for coming and mentions that the goal is to get everyone's input on keeping Lake Nipmuc in pristine condition. Joyce said she has reached out to colleges to see if students who are working towards environmental degrees would come out and do dye testing of the septic systems surrounding the Lake, and after speaking with 1 of the Environmental Engineer Professors about the testing, that having students go out and do testing would not be feasible as the students would have to have internships with an accepted and approved policy from the College. Joyce also reiterated that the BOH's area of concern would be the septic systems, and suggested going house to house, looking for copies of the septic pumping records.

Dan Byer, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Department, suggested that the BOH really consider not approving septic hauler permits, if the septic hauler is not providing the pumping records to the BOH as required by law.

Lawney Tinio, Select Board Member, asked what the Town can do, legally, to enforce the septic system compliance issues, he agrees something needs to be done, but what legal avenues does the Town have to enforce the issue.

Patty Johnston, resident at 37 Taft Avenue, states that she has a tight tank on her property, and there is an alarm on the system and when it goes off, that's when you need to have it pumped.

Wayne Phipps, President of the Lake Nipmuc Association, said there are systems currently on the Lake that shouldn't be even used like cesspools using barrels in the ground.

Chairman Greenberg mentions that Jack has a map and the addresses of those systems that surround the Lake, and for those who have tight tanks, must have a maintenance agreement, that gives the name of the hauler and how often it must be pumped. Chairman Greenberg said its just doesn't affect the BOH, but other Departments and Committees and why he feels having a Lake Nipmuc Task Force is needed as others have parts that they do to keep the Lake Nipmuc is good working order.

Dan Byer would like to have the Parks Dept. work on the testing aspects, especially a more comprehensive testing program around the Lake than just testing at the Beach area.

Peter Coffin, Member of the Conservation Commission, commends the actions taken tonight to have a collaboration of the different Boards and Committees. Peter's concern, along with probable septic issues, is phosphorus. It could be a septic contribution, but it could be from erosion which would be a Conservation Commission issue. Peter stated that major improvements have been made to the catch basins, but are they going to be maintained? Even though the sediments will be filtered from entering the Lake, phosphorus will continue to go into the Lake. There's more room for improvement, more maintenance, like more testing whether its bacteria, the phosphorus, or the evasive weeds.

Tom Fichtner thanks everyone for coming tonight. Tom mentions the different aspects of how to move forward with the quality of the Lake, as septic systems has been the primary topic so far on how the BOH can handle that issue, other components come into play like storm water is an element, uses of fertilizer, and potential exposes to bird feces. As the BOH initial task is to look into the status of the septic systems, with the possible dye testing.

Lawney asked how the Lake Task Force is going to be formed, regarding the size, who is involved, and should the Town hire a consultant to look at all aspects of maintaining the Lake and make it more focused.

Carl Hommel, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, mentioned that for his committee meeting this week, they will be discussing who from ConComm would be a part of the Task Force. Carl also mentioned that hiring a Consultant would be very expensive, as ConComm paid \$18,000 two years ago for the report that everyone has in front of them. So instead of hiring another consultant, to go through the report and review the possible grants for additional funding and review the alternatives and recommendations.

Chairman Greenberg agrees with Carl that hiring another consultant would not be beneficial and having the Task Force doing what Carl suggested would be better. The size of the Task Force should be 1 person from each Board/Committee, so that way everyone is involved and on the same page, and that information can be shared throughout the individual Board/Committee meetings.

Dan Byer mentions that in the report that there is a section of next steps, and one of them is a development of a lake management plan, identifying primary issues, define goals, and fill in key data gaps, which is basically the prime objective of this Task Force and after their meeting, to bring back the information to their respective Board or Committee.

Wayne Phipps would like to see a Task Force developed as there are so many issues that affect the quality of the Lake that haven't been breached the subject on like beaves, geese, evasive vegetation, high water. Every Board and Committee has their own agenda, and there doesn't seem to be enough transparency on to what is going on.

Tom Fichtner said that the first viable step is to create the Task Force to get the process moving forward.

Lawney Tinio asks if this is going to be an official group? Putting it before the Board of Selectmen and appointing individuals or an ad hoc committee? Tom Fichtner responded that it would be an official Town Committee. Lawney said he would put it on the next BOS Agenda as an item.

Wayne Phipps would like to mention that the Lake Nipmuc Association has a monthly meeting and anyone can attend.

Chairman Greenberg thanks everyone and asks if anyone had additional comments. No one had anymore to add.

Chairman Greenberg calls for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Tom Fichtner makes the motion to adjourn tonight's BOH Meeting. Joyce seconds the motion. The motion is passed.

Roll call vote: Greenberg-Aye, Fichtner-Aye, Gilmore-Aye.

Meeting is ended at 8:35 PM.