



Town of Mendon
Board of Health
Minutes for
July 8, 2020

Andy Fiske, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Alan Greenberg -Vice Chairman Tom Fichtner - BOH Member, Missy Kakela-Boisvert, Sr. Administrative Assistant to BOH, Select Person Lawney Tinio

Location – Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 347-467-1434 United States, New York City (Toll)
Conference ID: 617 257 983#

COVID-19

Missy informed the Board know that as of July 1st Mendon does not have any active cases of COVID-19. The Governor's third phase to the reopening plan has started. It will be in three sections. Some of it has to do with sports. This was of interest to Dan Byer (Parks Commissioner) and Lawney Tinio (Select Board Member) so Missy sent the guidance to both of them. Missy added that our BOH Health Agent (Lenny Izzo) did receive a complaint on an establishment from a resident. As of yet, Lenny has not been able to get to that location. Lenny did ask Missy to send a letter to the establishment reminding them that face coverings are required especially in enclosed areas and that there is a fining mechanism in place for failing to comply. That fine is up to \$300.00.

Tom gave an update on things that happened while Missy was on vacation. He said there weren't too many heavy issues. Tom commented that he thinks Missy deserves some "battle pay" after experiencing what he went through in just one week, which generated some laughter. Tom continued by stating there were a combination of different things which gave great realization as to how much our Administrative Assistant actually deals with. Some inquiries were just about trash and confirmation of payment. An individual was interested in our Senior Trash Discount program. Some were looking for information regarding their properties because they are getting ready to sell their home and need to do a Title V Inspection. Tom was able to handle things with great help from BOH Engineer Tom Ryder and Health Agent Lenny Izzo. Busy week but Tom is glad Missy's back in the saddle. The big issue while Missy was away is 65 Hartford Avenue West which is an agenda item so we will talk further about it as we move thru tonight's agenda.

Andy said that as far as COVID-19 goes, all that he has seen on the news is that Massachusetts is doing extremely well. He hasn't seen numbers as of today but was very happy to hear that we are in a good situation right now. He happened to see that Jacksonville Florida is leading the nation along with Houston Texas in new cases and people not behaving and causing a lot of grief with resurgence of the virus so let's not be them.

Andy asked Alan if he had anything to add. Alan said he could only echo what Andy had said. It's nice that we are doing well in the state of Massachusetts and that it will be nice to get back to

normal as soon as possible. He has personally seen some of his business clients and their employees are starting to return to the office. Even if it's not at full capacity, they are getting back to work and that is always a good thing to see. Alan did observe a probable issue at the Muffin House. He noticed the patrons were getting a bit lacking in their social distancing and he believes the younger employees probably didn't feel they have the authority to tell the patrons they need to space out. However, Alan only noticed that once. There was a younger crew on duty at the time and he's hoping that when the older shift leaders are on duty that they keep patrons aware. Alan commented that he does not want to see anybody get into any issue, as we want these people to stay open. Other than that, slow and steady and we seem to be winning the battle.

Andy said that he went to his first dentist appointment since the beginning of this. Obviously, there were some major changes there. He prays that everyone there is healthy because they have their face right inside your mouth. It was a good visit. They were all wearing proper protective gear & it's nice that they can operate again.

Andy asked if Select Board Member Lawney Tinio had anything to add. Lawney did have a quick question about the Muffin House situation looking to determine if it was an issue related to folks not wearing their masks or were they just not socially distancing. Alan responded and stated that the employees were doing everything they were supposed to be doing. It just seemed as though the patrons were lacking on the social distance side of things and wearing a full face covering. Alan commented that as a younger employee, it can be uncomfortable at times because you don't want to upset anyone but yet you're kind of in the middle because you know what you're supposed to be following. Alan's hoping it was just an isolated situation but knows that our office will address should a complaint be submitted.

Lawney said he guesses if someone has the mask below their nose he can relate as he would be the first to admit that he pulls his mask below his nose as it drives him nuts to have it over his face but if they have a face covering on, that negates the need to be socially distant. Lawney continued that as he understands it, you are required to have a face covering on when social distancing can't be met so if the face covering is on then social distancing shouldn't be a concern. He is just wondering if we're being a little over the top with some of the reported situations & believes a common-sense approach should prevail. Lawney ended it there.

Alan said he believes a face covering is required to enter the Muffin House period. Again, he being a patron it was getting a little uncomfortable for him only because he knows what the rules are and he was feeling bad for the employees. He can only imagine what it's like if X number of times a day you have to keep correcting the crowd so that you can stay open. So, he was being sympathetic towards the employees and he was hoping that the patrons would look around and say oh yeah, I'm supposed to do this. That all he is saying.

Andy is in agreement with Lawney & judging what he has read and what he has heard when social distancing can't be met but it's not a big deal and he is sure they will work thru it. He thanked Alan for noticing. Andy asked if anyone else had anything regarding COVID.

65 Hartford Avenue West – While Missy was out, we received a complaint about a property on Hartford Ave West. It's a rental property. The landlord lives beside it and the tenants were complaining that when they flushed the toilet, sewerage was coming up in shower and bathroom sink. Andy went there with an officer and witnessed it. They went outside and the sewer pipe is completely disconnected and the sewerage is coming out on the ground. The water, from when they flushed the toilet, was coming out of the side of the house. A letter was formulated & Andy, Along with a Police officer, went back to put the letter on the door for the landlord, as he was not home. The letter stated that the landlord has been mandated to pump the system, have a Title V Inspection done and get this repaired. There are other issues in the house as well, as expressed in voicemail messages left by the tenant & subsequently explained in conversations between Tom & the tenant. Apparently, the landlord was in New Hampshire for quite a while and was not available. He is now back. Andy asked Tom to go over the voicemail messages in addition to the sewer issue. There was some other stuff. Tom said that in addition to the septic issues he was experiencing, the tenant talked about some issues with the home itself. Sounded like a structural problem, as Tom commented on a particular wall section. Tom recalled that the tenant Described a wall as "caving in". The tenant also indicated potential foundation issues. Tom stated that the tenant had also reached out to the Building Department. The tenant is awaiting a visit by the Building Inspector to do an inspection. Additionally, Tom said that after we became aware of the septic issue, we got a call from another renter indicating that they had no water. The phrase that was used in the voicemail message left was that the water tank "blew up". What had actually happened when it was investigated is that a weld had broken on the main water line & the main tenant that was communicating with Tom was able to secure an individual to come & repair it.

Andy then spoke about Lenny (BOH Health Agent) going to this property a few weeks ago to respond to a complaint regarding bed bugs. Andy said he wasn't even in the door two seconds that the renters told him this is where the bed bugs are. Andy thought oh wonderful and so he backed out. Andy does believe the tenant is right about the structural things, as he did notice an issue with what appeared to be the roof "caving in". There are stains on the ceiling, the roof is leaking & in Andy's view the house is in deplorable condition. Andy asked Missy if she knew how many bedrooms the property has. Missy said give her a quick second and she can look. Tom said while Missy is checking that, one thing he'll add is that the septic tank did end up getting pumped. A friend of the landlord stopped by, in fact that individual actually took the notice off the door and had actually read it. This individual ended up having a conversation with the renter and offered to help out. They secured the services of John Gibson of Gibson Septic Service who came out and pumped the tank. Once the tank had been pumped, they were doing some flushing and John witnessed what Andy saw which was exposed things coming out of the pipes.

Andy talked about the back side of that property. The beavers have made, what was probably solid ground at one time, it a swamp and the broken pipe was right near that swamp. Andy had confirmed with Missy that someone had inquired about a Perc Test Application so they are apparently attempting to put in a septic system. Missy informed the Board that there are no septic plans on file for the property and the property is assessed as a two-bedroom. She also explained that the property owner and his friend, who had taken the letter off the door, did stop by the office. The owner told Missy that he was hiring Colonial Engineering to do the perc test.

He is well aware that the system needs to be replaced. Andy asked if they pulled a Perc Test Application, Missy said as of right now, no.

Scholarships – Missy explained that every year the Towns' trash hauler (E.L Harvey & Sons), offers financial support for two \$500.00 scholarships to high school graduating seniors going to college that reside in the Town of Mendon. Missy said we received a total of 3 applications. Two are from Nipmuc and the other is from BVT. She is not sure if the Board had a chance to review the application and she is not sure if they are ready to award the scholarships tonight. She did request the donation from Mike who is our rep with Harvey. Andy said he is ready to make a decision on these if Tom and Alan are. Alan is ready for discussion. Andy agreed. Alan found the easiest method to maintain anonymity in discussion is to use the applicant's initials. Alan's first choice has initials A.S. This student will be studying environmental science. The other two applicants are a tie in his mind. Andy asked Tom his thoughts. Tom said upon reviewing, he found all three applicants very worthy. Based on what he believes to be precedent, Tom would like to throw out a proposal. He would like to award all three applicants a \$500.00 scholarship each. Missy asked where the funding would be coming from for the third scholarship. Tom said when we did this before as recently as 2019, we had four candidates he believes we sought out approval to take money from the budget. We had Lisa in accounting involved and we got the ok. He knows two of them would be financially supported by EL Harvey. So, the third amount of \$500.00 would have to come from our budget. Missy would have to look back to whatever year that was. The thought of applying the Board Members stipends, which none of them take, to support funding the 3rd scholarship award might work but Missy did not know if we can spend stipends that way. In years past when they awarded, the Board had additional monies because of the contract at that time with Republic Service so there might have been extra money there but she does not have a problem looking into it. She just wants to make sure that is something you can legally do. Andy likes the idea about using their stipend for the third scholarship. All of our applicants are well deserved. It would be great if all three could receive a scholarship. With that being said, Missy is going to look into it & we shouldn't make a decision until we find out for sure. All Board Members agreed to wait.

Missy received an email from the Superintendent of the MURSD. Missy forwarded the email to the Board but wasn't sure if the Superintendent actually intended to send it to her, as it has to do with attending meetings for the reopening plan of the school district. The email thanked her for volunteering but she had no idea that she had volunteered for anything. Missy did let the Superintendent know that the Board or herself would be more than willing to help and assist them.

Gilda Trainor, who does the recycling calendar, sent a proof for the new calendar. Missy did ask for one thing to be added which is trash and recycling needs to be out curbside by 7:00 a.m. on your scheduled day. Missy has had residents who assume that their trash will always be picked up at the same time on their scheduled pick up day but residents cannot assume that, as there are times when a substitute driver will be doing the route (i.e. – Phil is on vacation) & the substitute driver will not necessarily do the route in the exact same way. This is not listed on the bills and thought it would work best to have the time put on the calendar. The Board agreed to put it on the calendar.

Alan did go back to the scholarships. He is wondering if Harvey would expand their budget for this. Missy said she could ask Mike; the worst thing Harvey can say it's not in the contract. There was a discussion again about using their stipends. Missy reminded them that if the three of them stay on the Board, prior to sending out the scholarship applications, they would have to vote to allocate their stipend to scholarships but it's not certain that it's even allowed. Andy asked if the Board still has the right to the stipends. Missy said yes, as it is voted on every year as part of their budget.

Andy asked Missy to talk about what had happened after the Annual Town Meeting. Missy explained that she got an email from Town Administrator regarding the error on the warrant for the BOH Revolving Account amount and not to worry, as it will be voted on in November. Missy does not know when the Board was even approved for a Revolving Account. Tom said the last he understood was that it was a matter of the BOH still needing to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss establishing it. That meeting has been allusive over the past few months. Tom believes FinCom was on board with it. He thinks it was more of a formality to simply put in the request to get it on the warrant for a vote. Tom believes we were still waiting for a formal agreement between BOH and FinCom. Andy asked if this was on the warrant and Tom indicated that it no not on this past one. The Board was not aware that this was moving forward. Missy read the email that she received. Missy explained she had seen the warrant articles for the BOH in the past and it was always in error. She has told the Town Administrator that if the BOH was awarded or approved for a Revolving/Enterprise Account that someone would teach her how it works and how it's run and that hasn't yet happened. Andy asked Missy if this is a busy time for FinCom. She said she didn't think so, as budgets have already been approved. Andy thinks this might be the time to get in touch and maybe meet with FinCom.

Next, Missy spoke with Board about revisiting a failed Title V Inspection Report on the lake. She will follow up with Tom Ryder (BOH Engineer) about sending a letter to the owner. The Board agreed for Missy to follow up with the owner.

Next meeting will be July 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Andy will not be available for that meeting.

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Meeting adjourned at 8:20p.m.