



## **Town of Mendon Board of Health Minutes for May 28, 2014**

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

Present –Thomas Fichtner BOH member, Alan Greenberg BOH member

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

The Board needed to reorganize since the election. Jack Grenga did not run so the Board has a new member Alan Greenberg. Tom made a motion to nominate Andy Fiske to be Chairman. Alan seconds the motion. Both members agreed. Andy accepted the nomination and will continue to be Chairman. This year, the BOH has a newly elected member, Alan Greenberg. Jack Grenga, previous BOH member & most recently Vice-Chairman, did not seek another term. The Board commenced with their reorganization process. Tom made a motion to nominate Andy Fiske to remain as Chairman. Tom stated that Andy has demonstrated great qualities in holding this responsibility. For that, along with his community knowledge & personal ability to interact with any town official or citizen, Tom believes Andy should continue in the role of BOH Chairman. Alan seconds the motion. Andy accepts the nomination & will continue as BOH Chairman.

**93 North Avenue** – The Board reviewed a local upgrade for this property. Andy did have questions for Fred because of the size of the lot. Andy questioned why they could not have put the system in without the local upgrade. Fred explained groundwater was still high the further they went back. Tom R. (BOH Engineer) did approve the plans. Andy is satisfied with the information provided by Fred. Tom F. made a motion to grant the request as follows: reduction in the standard 4 ft. separation distance, between the bottom soil absorption level and the high ground water elevation, to the requested 3 ft. separation as allowed by local upgrade guidelines. Alan seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the two scholarship applications submitted. The Board had previously announced that four \$500.00 scholarships were going to be awarded. Discussion amongst the Board raised the thought of whether to apply more monies to the two submitted scholarships. Since the Board did advertise the awards a certain way, they felt it would be unfair to increase the dollar amounts. Alan made a motion to grant the two \$500.00 scholarships and apply the remainder of the money for next year. Tom seconds the motion. All three members agreed.

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes from May 7, 2014. Andy steps down as Chairman and seconds the motion. Alan abstained because he was not a member at the time. Two of three members agreed. Motion carried.

The Board then discussed the topic of having the Senior Discount Program renew annually instead of the current process which involves submitting a one-time application. The reason for this is based on a recommendation from the BOH Senior Administrative Assistant to better monitor the program in order to maintain a more accurate accounting of those households that do meet the discount requirements. Seniors would simply need to submit an application annually. Per Missy, the BOH Senior Administrative assistant, there have been instances of senior citizens passing away, yet the account still reflects the senior rate. Also, there have been times when changes have taken place in the household which would make that household ineligible to participate in the discount but these changes have gone unreported. Per Missy, the most current information on these applications is from 2011. Discussion of this topic also led to Tom F. stating that other modifications in this program should be looked at which could better serve the senior citizen population. Alan agreed that a reassessment should be discussed. Andy suggested that for this particular meeting, as the topic only pertained to implementing a yearly application process vs. keeping it the same, we should act on the recommendation and table the discussion of further Senior Discount Program changes for a later meeting, given the length of tonight's agenda. Tom F & Alan G. agree. Tom makes a motion to have the seniors reapply yearly for the discount. Alan seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried.

The Board asked Missy to look into a back up Health Agent. There is concern that if Lenny Izzo (current Health Agent) is unavailable either due to vacations or health reason there is no back up. The Board would like to know what other towns do to handle these kinds of situations.

The Board would like to meet with a representative of the VNA. Per Missy, many towns that surround us are not renewing their contracts and she reports instances of other Boards of Health not being happy with the service(s) they are receiving. The Board has requested that a representative of the VNA attend the next meeting on June 11, 2014. The current contract with the VNA is set to expire on June 30, 2014.

Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Approved June 11, 2014**