



**Town of Mendon  
Board of Health  
20 Main St. Mendon  
Minutes for  
November 4, 2015**

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

Present: Alan Greenberg - Vice Chairman, Tom Fichtner - BOH Member

Location – Board of Health Office– 20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756

**170 Blackstone Street** - Robert and Susan Hudon came to speak to the Board about their private well. They recently had their well tested and the results for sodium and sodium chloride were extremely high. Sodium was 863.02 mg/L; the limit is 20.0 mg/L under MassDEP guidelines. Sodium Chloride was 2506.00 mg/L; the limit is 20.0 mg/L under MassDEP guidelines. The Hudons first noticed a difference in 2011. The well was originally installed in 1995 prior to Mendon having Private Well Regulations. The Hudons believe that the issue is caused by road salt. They were led to this view based on a conversation they had with MassDEP. According to the Hudons, the well casing is falling apart, which they believe could allow groundwater into the well. The Hudons informed the Board that they did have an inspection performed. Thru use of a camera, their inspector reported that the well casing was compromised. The Board stated to the Hudons that sodium was an issue with the two house lots they had previously sold. Enhanced systems were implemented to handle the salt issues experienced. The Board asked the Hudons various questions related to whether or not a water softener existed, the existence of a pool (which they do have but was filled in) and whether lawn fertilizer is regularly utilized.

The Hudons are concerned because the water is not drinkable and is doing damage to their pipes. They presented their concern of how expensive it could be to implement a reverse osmosis system that is designed to flush salt from the water. The Hudons inquired as to possible compensation available if they were to implement such a costly repair. The Board informed them that there is no compensation from the town's perspective that could be offered. Since the Hudons feel that their well has been contaminated by the road salt, they were presenting it as a responsibility of the town to address.

Fred Lapham (Shea Engineering), who was in attendance for another matter before the Board, was asked by the Board to provide his knowledge to the matter at hand. Fred explained that when a well is drilled, the water source could be coming from upwards of 3 or more miles away. Fred's view was that it would be unlikely that surface road salt could be the issue. The Board advised the Hudons that the office will send out letters to abutters to inform them of the Hudons issue and to determine if they would be open to having their well water tested and report their findings to the BOH to gauge if the issue was consistent elsewhere.

**56 Hartford Avenue West** – Fred Lapham (Shea Engineering) presented plans that require a local upgrade. Tom Ryder, the Board of Health Engineer, has approved them. Fred explained that there is a lot of ledge on the property and the direction being proposed made the most sense. The request is as

follows: reduction in the separation distance between proposed leach system location and bordering vegetated wetlands, 30ft. requested. This request does not require abutter notification. The Board inquired if Fred had been before the Conservation Committee. Fred responded that he had been and that they were fine with the plan presented. Alan made a motion to approve the local upgrade request as presented on the plan. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried.

**14 Mary Drive** - Fred Lapham presented plans that require a local upgrade. Tom Ryder has approved them. The request is as follows: reduction in the 4 foot separation distance between the bottom of the soil absorption system and the high ground water elevation, 3ft. requested. This request does not require abutter notification. Alan made a motion to approve request as presented on the plan. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried.

Now that Max Carbone will no longer be the Animal Inspector, the Board will have to notify the Selectmen and Public Safety. The Board will submit an advertisement to the Mendon/Upton Town Crier, the Yankee Shopper and Milford Daily News. The advertisement will advise all interested persons to submit applications to the Board of Health by January 4, 2016.

The Board discussed sending out Food Permit Renewals via certified mail. They feel it is worth the minor cost to ensure the BOH office that the establishments did receive the required paperwork. There have been issues in the past with establishments reporting that they did not receive the application paperwork. The application paperwork will include a letter that will outline a specific timeline for all food establishments to follow, which will allow for proper processing to obtain a valid Food Permit.

Andy (Board Chairman) talked with Lenny Izzo (BOH Health Agent) about the 30 day requirement, currently in place, for Temporary Food Permits. Lenny stated to Andy that this guideline was in place before he was Health Agent. They discussed about having a 14 day requirement instead. Lenny was fine with this timeframe. Andy told the other Board members that Lenny is fine with a 14 day requirement. To note, this timeline requirement has to do with when applicants for Temporary Food Permits are supposed to have their completed applications turned in to the BOH office. Missy (Sr. Administrative Assistant) stated that she just wants to make sure this new timeframe will not hinder Board members from coming in to the office to sign the permits. The Board agreed unanimously that this new timeframe is acceptable. Alan made a motion that completed paperwork for a Temporary Food Permit must be submitted to the office 14 days prior to the event instead of 30 days. 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 9:35 p.m.

**Approved November 18, 2015**