



Town of Mendon
18 Main Street
Mendon, MA 01756
(508) 634-2656

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday – October 19, 2022 | 7:00 PM

In Attendance: Alan Greenberg – BOH Chairman
Tom Fichtner – BOH Vice-Chairman
Joyce Gilmore – BOH Member
Jack McLellan – Inspectional Svcs. Office Coord. | Health Admin.

MINUTES APPROVED

By Board of Health on
MAY 24, 2023

Not Present: N/A

Meeting Location: Remote via Microsoft Teams

At 7:01 PM, BOH Meeting has been called to order by Jack McLellan. Jack reads the Open Meeting Law Extension.

Chairman Greenberg thanks Jack, and begins the meeting with the 1st Agenda.

1st Item on Agenda EL Harvey Contract

Michael Szczepan, from EL Harvey, begins with talking about the new Massachusetts Waste Bans coming into effect on November 1, 2022. The MassDEP has put Mattresses, Box Springs, and Textiles on the Waste Ban List. No longer can these items be put into landfills. With regard to Mattresses and Box Spring disposals, residents can either call EL Harvey or any other Hauler and schedule a pickup for disposal, for a fee or if buying a new mattress or boxspring, having the old one taken away by the store where the new purchase was made. Joyce wanted to reiterate that the "Pink Bag" program is no longer available, and for residents to call or go online to CMRK for textile removal. Also, there are textile bins located in Mendon that residents can drop off in the bins.

Chairman Greenberg asks Mike if he's working on the new municipal trash and recycling contract for automation would be coming soon for the Boards review and approval. Mike responded that he's working on it, just needs some details in order to finish it. Tom asks Mike when, roughly, the contract would be available for the Boards review. Mike is hoping to have a completed contract by the end of November.

Chairman Greenberg asks if anyone has additional comments on this topic. No one responded. Chairman Greenberg thanks Mike for joining tonight's meeting and moves on to Topic #2.

2nd Item on Agenda 52 Millville Road

Jack announces that the tenants and landlord are on the meeting tonight. Chairman Greenberg outlines the situation at 52 Millville Road in regard to the disposal of asbestos and mold. Chairman Greenberg believes that the situation is being handled properly, but asks the tenant, Kristen Auclair, to provide her outlook on the problem.

Kristen thanks the Chairman for the opportunity. Kristen stated that none of the mold was removed, demolition that was being conducted was about 4 feet away from her bed with no covering to protect the linens. Kristen stated that she was coughing and couldn't breathe, has been to the doctor and is allergic to certain types of mold, and has taken multiple phone calls to get anything done. Kristen stated that she is still living in the residence.

Chairman Greenberg asks Kristen how long she's been living at the property, and she responded 4 years. Chairman Greenberg asks when she 1st noticed the problem. She responded it was back in 2019. Chairman Greenberg asks if she reached out to the landlord back in 2019 to solve the problems. Kristen responded she did and thought it was taken care of.

Chairman Greenberg asks other Board Members to add to the discussion. Tom said that he spoke to the Mold Tester, Steven Dubois, from Green Solutions. Tom asked Steven why was the mold test taken in the bedroom instead of the bathroom. Steven responded that the close proximity of the bedroom and bathroom, that someone would spend more time in the bedroom than they would in the bathroom, so he said the air sample would be better from the bedroom area. Tom also asked Steven why a swab test for mold wasn't conducted. Steven responded that mold is everywhere, and from a health perspective, it would be from a breathing element, not so much as it being on a surface, but the existence of it in the air. So that is why the tests were conducted in that method.

Chairman Greenberg sees that Tom Merolli, who also lives at 52 Millville is present and asks Tom Merolli if he would like to speak. Tom Merolli thanks the Chairman and states that he just wants everyone to be happy and healthy. Tom Merolli said that work has been done, but the allergies and sickness still remain. Tom Merolli is thinking that maybe broader air quality tests be conducted to test for more variables other than just mold or having a professional cleaning done. Joyce asks Tom Merolli if the linens on the bed and clothing in the bedroom were cleaned after the work was completed. Tom Merolli said that they were put in the laundry. Joyce is thinking that maybe the Pillow or Mattress pad may also need to be thoroughly cleaned.

Chairman Greenberg asks Tom Merolli on how he was feeling. Tom Merolli stated that he has headaches but can't say if the situation is a contributing factor. Tom Merolli reiterated that maybe additional comprehensive tests be conducted. Chairman Green asks Tom Merolli if he made those requests to the landlord. Tom Merolli said he did not. Chairman Greenberg suggests he contact the landlord and make those requests known.

Joyce recognizes Mike Merolli, the landlord of the property and calls on him for his input. Mike Merolli stated that he requested the air testing to be done to get to the bottom of the situation. Mike Merolli also contacted his insurance company to open a claim and told Tom Merolli, last week, to contact the Insurance Claim Adjuster for any claims of temporary housing while the work was being done and any additional testing should go through the Insurance Claim Adjuster. Tom Merolli responds that he wasn't clear that he could contact the Insurance Adjuster, and wanted to clarify that he can ask for additional testing to cleaning to be done. Mike Merolli said yes and told Tom Merolli to contact him as soon as possible and talk to them to set it up.

Tom Fichtner asked if the renovations have been completed at this point. Mike Merolli said yes, everything from the bathroom has been removed and replaced, and everything is done. Kristen said the dumpster with all the material that was removed from the bathroom is still sitting outside her residence, which could be still causing her health issues. Mike Merolli said that there is additional work to do, like replacing the sliding doors, and that the dumpster was going to still be used for those materials, but is willing to have the dumpster removed from the property.

Chairman Greenberg asks the Board if they had any additional comments. Tom Fichtner asks Kristen that after everything that has been discussed, is there anything she would like to see the Board of Health to do, outside of everything that has been discussed, for

assistance. Kristen stated that if talking to the Insurance Adjuster to get something done, and if the dumpster is removed and she starts to feel better, she is more than happy to come back to the next meeting to say things are better. Kristen thanks the Board for their time and consideration.

Chairman Greenberg thanks everyone for the comments. It seems that everyone is in communication with one another, everyone knows of the next steps to take, and hopes that by the next meeting, there will be good news. Chairman Greenberg moves on to Topic #3.

3rd Item on Agenda

192 Millville Road

Jack calls on Betty Armstrong. Betty explains to the Board that her neighbor had septic system put in, and during construction, that numerous boulders were removed from the ground and have put them into their property. Betty has tried numerous times calling him, trying to meet him, and she's not getting anywhere. She believes it's a liability as a couple of families live on the property with young children. Joyce stated that it doesn't seem to be a Board of Health issue, but more of a policing issue, since the septic was put in and done properly, but with damage and debris left over, would not be a Board of Health issue. Chairman Greenberg suggests that Betty do some investigation to find out who the insurer of the property is since it is a liability issue and contact them to let them know of the issue. Tom agrees that even though a septic system was put in and debris from the project has caused the issue, that from the Board of Health perspective, the Board has no recourse to offer, but to have Betty possibly contact the property's insurance company or retain a lawyer. Betty thanks the Board and she will try to make contact with the property's insurance company. Chairman Greenberg thanks Betty and the Board for their input and moves on to Topic #4.

4th Item on Agenda

BOH-Health Agent & Animal Inspector Vacancy

Jack has drafted an outline of the Job Description of the vacancy for the Board review. Jack has also reached out to Hopedale to see if they wanted to have a "shared services" Health Agent. Carol from the Hopedale Board of Health said she would present the idea to her Board and will get back to Jack. Chairman Greenberg wanted to reiterate that Danielle Edmands is a supplemental service from the Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health, who is serving as the interim-Animal Inspector. Chairman Greenberg is on board with finding a candidate that can do both, but if 2 separate people are needed to fill the Health Agent vacancy, and the Animal Inspector position, he's fine with that as well. Joyce is also on board for the "shared services" if Hopedale is willing.

Jack notifies Chairman Greenberg and Joyce that Tom Fichtner texted Jack that he had to step away for a few minutes.

Chairman Greenberg thanks for the update and moves on to Topic #5.

5th Item on Agenda

Flu Clinic Update from 10/18/22

Jack updates the Board of last night's Flu Clinic at Miscoe. The Flu Clinic provided 48 flu vaccines and the Senior Center Flu Clinic provided 15 flu vaccines. Chairman Greenberg thanks Jack for the update and moves on to Topic #6.

6th Item on Agenda

BOH Forms/Letters Review and Approval

Jack has presented the Board with an updated Installer/Hauler letter. These letters are for those currently licensed in Mendon that install septic systems, hauling septage and/or trash. Prior, a renewal letter went out to all 3 separately, but Jack is suggesting combining all 3 into 1 letter. Joyce thinks it's a great idea. Chairman Greenberg also thinks it's a great

idea as 1 vendor could be providing the 3 separate services. Jack mentioned that is the reason why to combine it into 1 letter. Chairman Greenberg and Joyce approve the Installer/Hauler Renewal Letter.

Jack has also reminded the Board that any septic pumping records has to be submitted to the Board of Health within 14 days of pumping. Jack created a form that states that if a licensed septic hauler has not done any septic pumping within a calendar month, that they need to state so using the new form. Chairman Greenberg and Joyce approved the new septic pumping record.

7th Item on Agenda Board of Health Minutes Review and Approval for 11/09/21, 12/01/21, and 12/15/21
Tom Fichtner has not returned back to the meeting. Chairman Greenberg has decided to wait until Tom is available, so to put this topic on the next Board of Health Agenda.

8th Item on Agenda Topics not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours prior to meeting
NONE

The Board sets its next meeting for November 2nd at 7:00pm.

Joyce calls for a Motion to adjourn tonight's BOH Meeting: Chairman Greenberg steps down and seconds the motion. The motion is passed. **Roll call vote: Greenberg-Aye, Fichtner-N/A, Gilmore-Aye.**

Meeting is ended at 9:01 PM.