



Town of Mendon  
Board of Health  
Minutes for  
September 16, 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, Tom Ryder, BOH Engineer, Lawney Tinio as a resident not a member of Select Board, Chris Burke as a resident not a member of Select Board,

Location – Join Microsoft Teams Meeting+1 347-467-1434 United States, New York City (Toll)  
Conference ID: 846 198 320#

Andy talked about the State of Massachusetts with respect to COVID-19 & commented that positive cases are down in general but Mendon did see a slight increase. He was disheartened to learn that in another school district parents sent their child to school knowing the child was COVID-19 positive. Now 30 high school students are in quarantine. He asked Tom F. if he had anything to add and he said not at this time. Andy asked Alan the same thing. Alan said he was troubled that the State had to take over Contact Tracing for Boston College because of transparency issues. He is also concerned that there are stories out there of students congregating in order to contract COVID-19 in order to put off the start of the school year. He said if that is true, it's a very foolish thing to do. He looking forward to getting life back to normal.

Andy asked if Lawney would like to say anything. Lawney raised concerns about the policy for complaints and enforcement. He asked if someone could make multiple anonymous complaints to the Board of Health or to the State. Lawney stated that he was told by someone at the Muffin House that if there was one more complaint, Lenny was going to shut them down and fine them \$500.00 to a \$1,000.00. Andy asked if Missy could answer Lawney's questions. Missy explained that she was in the office when Lenny made the call to the Muffin House and he never said anything about closing them. He did say he would fine them. As far as fines are concerned, the limit is up to \$300.00. Missy made reference to a situation at another establishment (Hide A Way Pizza) and explained that when Lenny did fine them, it was a total of \$200.00 for two different dates. Missy commented that Lenny's main role with the Board of Health has always been to help establishments be in compliance whether it's COVID-19 related or not and not to be heavy handed with fining. In both situations at the Muffin House & at Hide A Way Pizza, Lenny had responded multiple times meaning there were multiple complaints. The BOH must respond to complaints but with that said that doesn't mean we automatically presume the complaint has merit. That is up to Lenny to decide when he goes to the establishments. Lenny gives establishments leeway to correct a situation but if an establishment refuses to address a situation that has been brought to their attention more than once, it may mean that Lenny may have no other choice but to institute a fine. Could someone contact the State or the BOH office multiply times and make complaints, sure Missy said but you have to use some common sense. Andy asked Lawney if Missy answered his questions and Lawney said yes. He was happy to hear that the BOH is working with businesses.

Andy then asked Chris if he had anything to say regarding COVID. Chris thanked the Board of Health for all they were doing during this time.

Andy again asked Lawney if he was all set. Lawney said yes unless the Board needed him for anything. If not, he was going to leave the meeting. The BOH said no and thanked him for calling in. Lawney then left the meeting.

Andy then returned to Chris and asked him to address the Board with his concerns. Chris said he spoke to the Chair about his concern regarding abutter notification for a Variance or Local Upgrade specifically regarding the fact that no date and time had been listed on a letter that was sent by an engineer. After some discussion, it was decided that the office will contact the engineer. Also, the Board confirmed they would like to review letters being sent out to the abutters prior to be sent.

Andy asked Chris if he was ok with what the Board had decided and he said yes. Andy asked if there was anything else that Chris would like to speak to the Board about. Chris said no. He asked BOH members if there was anything the Board needed from him. Otherwise, he would be leaving the meeting. BOH members said no. Andy thanked Chris and Chris left the meeting.

The Board then talked about sending a letter to the owner of 45 Cape Road regarding a compliant from the owner of 47 Cape Road. Tom Ryder has been in contact with the owner of 47 Cape Road and at this time won't be sending a letter to 45 Cape Road.

Next, the Board reviewed a letter Tom F. drafted to send to MURSD Superintendent Joseph Maruszczak. This letter is requesting the use of the Miscoe Hill School gymnasium for the annual flu clinic. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Board has a logistical issue so the Board is reaching out directly to Dr. Maruszczak to explain and seek approval for use.

Next, Missy and Tom Ryder discussed issues that have been coming up with home remodels. Missy told the Board that we are experiencing issues of in-law apartments or reconfigurations of homes and the septic systems are not adequately designed. The BOH office occasionally receives Title V Inspection Reports containing discrepancies with the number of actual bedrooms versus what the system is/was designed to support.

The property owners of 2 Millbrook Drive were on the call and want to clarify their project. According to the BOH records, the system is designed for a 3-bedroom house. Tom Ryder reviewed & stated that the leach field was over-designed by 5 square feet. Therefore, the leach field would be ok for the additional bedroom.

The board will have Missy and Tom R. work together on these issues along with Health Agent Lenny Izzo.

Next meeting will be October 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan seconds the motion. All members agreed. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.