



Town of Mendon

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

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday – September 7, 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 7:00 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 CMRK Town Recycling Program - Taylor Millspaugh

Taylor Millspaugh begins with talking about what CMRK does and what it can offer the Town of Mendon. Tom asks Taylor to explain the Textile Waste that would begin on November 1, 2022. Taylor explains that MassDEP will prohibit any textile (clothing, towels, etc.) cannot go into the trash. It has to be donated/collected. The only exception is any textile that is moldy, smelly, or overly soiled, those may be thrown into regular trash.

Joyce asked what happens to the textiles that are collected. Taylor said that they are donated to organizations in need, fire departments for their mannequins in their trainings or those who need clothing for job interviews.

Chairman Greenberg thanked Taylor for participating and Jack will follow-up with Taylor regarding a contract. Chairman Greenberg moves on to the 2nd Agenda Item.

2nd Item on Agenda Rooster Noise Nuisance – Follow-Up

Anne Mazzarelli is still experiencing a neighbor's rooster at 18B Neck Hill Road is crowing constantly in very early hours of the morning. Joyce mentioned that she has been at the property and that the rooster is no longer there. Anne said that the original rooster is gone, but there is a 2nd rooster on the property. Joyce said she will go to the property again. Chairman Greenberg asks if there are any other comments on this topic. No one responded, so Chairman Greenberg moves on to the 3rd Agenda Item.

3rd Item on Agenda Rodent Control

Jack has mentioned to the Board that he has received complaints about multiple sightings of rats around the Town. There is a hand raised and Chairman Greenberg calls on Rip Sokol. Rip said he could offer some information on rats. As the owner of Feeds N' Needs, he has repeatedly dealt with rodent infestations of chipmunks, mice, and only in the past 6 months, has he had to deal with rats. Rip said that Chicken feed would not attract the rats. He said what is attracting them is outdoor food left for cats/dogs, textured goat/horse feed with molasses, and most certainly human food in trash bins/barrels not covered securely.

David Rich wanted to comment that he has lived in Mendon for about 20 years and has never seen a rat. The last couple of months he has noticed them and coincidentally that a new neighbor moved in a few months ago and they have chickens. He's not blaming anyone or the chickens, but just finds it coincidental.

Chairman Greenberg thanks David and Rip for the comments. The Chairman also wanted to mention that rats will travel great distances not only for food, but also for water. So people may want to be aware of caring for outside domesticated animals of leaving water out. Tom agrees with the Chairman, that this season has been a drought, and maybe the outside water may be consistent with the multiple sightings.

Jack recognizes Rip again with his hand raised. Rip said that the common denominator is the drought, and residents with chicken, would have a waterer for them, and that would attract the rodents to the property. Also, there could be other things on the property, like an old tire, or anything that could hold rain water, that would attract the rats.

Joyce Gilmore mentions that Mendon is not the only town dealing with the rat infestation around town. She has had received calls from residences call her, who don't have chickens on their property, or in the neighborhood, having rat problems. The issue is definitely the drought and the lack of hydration for the rats.

Chairman Greenberg thanks everyone for their comments and concerns, and as a big concern for this topic, the Board needs to move on to the other items on the Agenda. Chairman Greenberg moves on to the 4th Item on the Agenda.

4th Item on Agenda

Hastings Street Project

Joyce wanted to discuss the project and had questions regarding the soils testing. Tom Ryder, the BOH Engineer, mentions that the area has high ground water and good soils. Joyce's concern is the Perc Rate and Tom Ryder agrees that additional Perc Tests should be done as he believes the tests were just preliminary measurements. Joyce will reach out to the Property Owners to arrange additional Perc Tests for the Project to confirm the tests have not drastically changed. Chairman Greenberg thanks Tom Ryder for joining tonight's meeting and moves on to Agenda Item #5.

5th Item on Agenda

Mendon Tobacco Enforcement Update

Jack updates the Board that he has met with Jodie Brighenti from the Leominster Tobacco Enforcement. Jodie was able to start her educational visit and introduction to all tobacco sales establishments in Mendon. Jodie will go back out to the establishments in about 2-3 weeks to make sure they are following the laws and regulations on Massachusetts Tobacco Sales. Chairman Greenberg thanks Jack for the update and moves on to the 6th topic on the Agenda.

6th Item on Agenda

Lake Nipmuc Updates

Jack said he did not have any additional information from the last BOH meeting to update the Board on. Jack is receiving more pumping records from the lake area, but that's about it. Jack will continue to update the Lake Nipmuc Map with received records. Joyce mentioned that she believes Mike Tetreault would be available to be a part of the Discussion Panel. Tom mentions that him and Joyce have discussed the topic of dye testing to the septic system, and wondered the ability to implement the testing. Tom believes the BOH has the authority to implement the testing as a Public Health issue. Chairman Greenberg asked if the Town still had the Septic System Grant Assistance. Tom believes that is no longer in place. Jack said he would check with Jody in the Treasurer's office. Chairman Greenberg just wanted to make note that the Panel should be assembled

during the off season, so that the education, discussions, and implementations can be accomplished before the beginning of the new beach season, and also that the Panel not be too large of a group.

7th Item on Agenda Dumpster Regulations Review
TOPIC NOT DISCUSSED

8th Item on Agenda Topics not anticipated within 48 Hours
NONE

9th Item on Agenda Set next Meeting and Adjourn
The Board sets their next meeting for September 21, 2022 at 7pm.

Joyce calls for a Motion to adjourn tonight's BOH Meeting: Tom seconds the motion. The motion is passed. **Roll call vote: Greenberg-Aye, Fichtner-Aye, Gilmore-Aye.**

Meeting is ended at 9:13 PM.