



**Town of Mendon
Board of Health
20 Main St. Mendon
Minutes for
August 28, 2019**

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

Present: Alan Greenberg -Vice Chairman, Tom Fichtner - BOH Member, Michael Szczepan from E. L. Harvey, Lawney Tinio, Selectman, Ann Labonte, VNA nurse and Michelle Sanford, Town Crier

Residents present: Jane Belleville, Barbara Gokey, Lea Whiting, Dan Byer, Ken O'Brien and Gary Neves

Location – Selectmen's Meeting Room – 20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756

E.L Harvey – Discussion on trash/recycling – Mike Szczepan (E.L Harvey Representative) discussed the issues that occur, with the trash and recycling service, when our regular driver is on vacation. This issue also goes back to when we had Republic Services as our trash hauler. Mike explained that when our driver went on vacation, the swing driver that was supposed to cover Mendon's route had been promoted. Therefore, Mike had no one who was familiar with Mendon and Mendon's system to service the Town. Mike is working internally to prevent any future problems when the Town's regular driver is away. Mike apologized for the inconveniences the residents had experienced. In addition, Mike provided some background information on just how the trash hauling/ recycling program has been going. Mr. Szczepan informed us that the recycling product being picked up has had many issues with regard to it not being in compliance for acceptability. Too often, residents are not recycling correctly. Improper items are being included in the recycling products which creates issues for disposal. The Board asked if anyone had any questions but there were none. The Board thanked Mr. Szczepan for attending.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) – Discussion/Updates – BOH Chairman Andy Fiske led off the discussion by addressing the topic of the aerial spraying that had been performed. Andy explained that this aerial spray program was implemented by the State thru the Department of Public Health (DPH). Given the increase of EEE-positive findings in mosquitos & the number of humans & animals that tested positive for EEE, the DPH took the extreme action of implementing an aerial spray program to assist in reducing the mosquito population. Our Town and surrounding communities were designated as "CRITICAL" risk areas, which moved the DPH to take the action they took. Andy noted that local towns and Boards of Health had no say in the matter. It was also noted that any spray program is considered a last resort. Resident Lea Whiting asked if the State will be scheduling a second round of spraying. Andy told her at this time the State has said no. Jane Belleville asked why the Agricultural Commission was not specifically notified. Andy apologized for that & noted this is a good opportunity for the BOH and the Agricultural Commission to improve communications moving forward. Resident Barbara Gokey wanted it documented that since they had sprayed the Monday night previous to this

meeting, she has not seen any blue jays, hummingbirds or bees in her clover. Barbara also believes her property was affected again when they sprayed last night (Tuesday). BOH Chairman

Andy Fiske stated to Barbara that, from what we were told, the Town of Mendon was not sprayed on Monday night. However, Barbara insisted that it was. Resident Gary Neves brought up the topic of utilizing more natural ways to combat mosquitoes instead of pesticides. The Board thanked all residents for attending.

Alan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved October 23, 2019