

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
December 3, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Matthew Newman (Chair), Gary Fine (Clerk), Gail McSweeney (Member), Sheila Landy (Secretary), Kaitlyn Bergin (resident) and Charles Mathieson (WATD Reporter).

**6:00 MR. NEWMAN OPENED THE MEETING AND READ THE STATEMENT REGARDING  
AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING**

**BOARD ACTION ITEM – Update Title V Regulations to include footings in septic setback requirements**

The Board discussed a change to Title V Rules & Regulations Exclusive to Pembroke, MA, Section 15.211 - Minimum Setback Distances. It was proposed to change Slab Foundation to Slab Foundation and Footings. To avoid confusion the Board voted to add a separate line item just for footing, requiring a 10' setback from the Septic Tank and/or the Soil Absorption System. McSweeney made the motion, Fine seconded and all were in favor.

*Before discussing the next three items, the Chair stated he did not expect decisions tonight for these items. He asked the members their concerns.*

**BOARD DISCUSSION ITEM – Discuss Pond Pollution Safeguards**

Mr. Fine stated he would like Mr. Thorne to be present when discussing the ponds. Ms. McSweeney stated we need more recent data than 2000. She knows reports were done in 2010 which are missing. They were done by Fred Leary. If we can't find them, she would like to monitor the ponds this winter to see which septic systems are in failure. Newman asked if anyone had looked at the packet regarding ponds. After a pause, McSweeney said we don't have regulations and we need to incorporate them. Fine asked if McSweeney could make a presentation with the notes she has from assisting the former Health Agent, Fred Leary. McSweeney said she would be pleased to do so. Fine reiterated he would like Mr. Thorne to attend a BoH Meeting and discuss the ponds as Thorne stated before he had some value added experience to add to the discussion. Fine wants to know if we are going to keep the status quo or prohibit the homes on the ponds from using fertilizer. McSweeney said a 50' buffer of using fertilizer near the pond would reduce other costs associated with maintaining the ponds.

**BOARD DISCUSSION ITEM – Discuss Streamlining Variance Request Approval Procedure**

The Board discussed streamlining variances to allow residents more timely variances when replacing/repairing septic systems. McSweeney is concerned about plastic septic tanks. Fine has no interest in allowing streamlining variances at this time. Fine made a motion that the process improvement in variances that have been suggested by the Health Agent office be put on hold for a twelve month period and then at that time the board can review them. McSweeney seconded. Fine and McSweeney voted Yes. Newman voted No.

**BOARD DISCUSSION ITEM – Rooster Regulations**

Fine asked why Food Code was not on the Agenda. The Chair stated it was pushed back until the 17<sup>th</sup> to allow both Food Inspectors to attend. The Board discussed possible changes to the livestock regulations regarding roosters. Should roosters be banned? Or should other regulations be tightened? The Board decided each member should go through the livestock regulations and list their concerns. The concerns will be emailed to the Secretary and she will combine the lists and distribute to the members at the next meeting.

**UPCOMING ISSUES**

Title V Control Numbers - A write up will be distributed when the topic is on the Agenda for discussion.

McSweeney made a motion to adjourn. Newman seconded and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.

Matthew Newman  
Chair