

**BOARD OF HEALTH – TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 – 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: *Wendy Parrinello, Board Secretary*

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Adequate Notice of this meeting of the Board of Health of the Township of Mendham was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to the Observer Tribune and Daily Record on January 31, 2023. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: *Led by Mr. Benjamin Weber*

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. John Atkins

Ms. Ann Real

Mr. Benjamin Weber

Mr. Kenneth West

Ms. Diane Tolley, joined at 7:48 pm

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 22, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Weber makes a motion to approve the minutes with the few corrections stated. Mr. Atkins seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL: YES

Mr. Atkins

Ms. Real

Mr. Weber

Mr. West

BUSINESS:

BLOCK 112 LOT 15

APPLICANT: Christopher Schumacher; 68 Old Mill Road

APPLICATION: Septic Alteration, Dig Engineering Co., Charles Digney, PE

- Mr. Charles Digney, Dig Engineering Co., is in attendance and is representing the applicant for the septic alteration project at 68 Old Mill Road. Mr. Digney explains that there are two homes on the property, both of which have their own well and septic system. The applicant is seeking a septic alteration for the secondary, two-bedroom dwelling. Mr. Digney is proposing a gravity system with a 1000g AquaKlear Aerobic Treatment Unit.

- Mr. Digney provides the Board with a letter from the manufacturer – AquaKlear of New Jersey, verifying the designs consistency with all the manufacturer’s minimum specifications and recommendations.
- The proposed disposal field is 50ft. from an existing well, and therefore does not meet the required setback of 100ft.
- Mr. Digney explains that the previous owners of the subject home never indicated that there was a well for the main house and therefore that well was not considered or included during the design of the septic system for the main house.
- Mr. Weber asks if there are architectural plans for the subject home, which is represented as having two bedrooms. Mr. Digney states no, that the home will remain as is and the septic system will be appropriately sized for that dwelling, as a two-bedroom home.
- Mr. West asks if there are residents living in the main home? Mr. Digney states yes, two people are living in the main home.
- Mr. Digney and the Board go over the memos provided by Ms. Freer and Mr. Korshalla.
- Mr. Weber and Mr. West ask about the well casing being increased based on the number of feet being compromised.
- Mr. West along with Mr. Weber, Ms. Freer and Mr. Digney discuss options for the well so that it meets the Township’s setback requirement and is also environmentally sound.
- It’s suggested that 50 ft. be added to the existing casing. Mr. Digney states that attempting to add 50ft. of casing to an old well will likely crumble the existing casing.
- It’s confirmed that the well water results for both wells at this property have passed the state required well water testing standards.
- There was a considerable amount of discussion about the well and its distance from the proposed septic field.
- The applicant advises the board that the two existing wells at the subject property have been tested and determined to meet applicable standards for continued use. The Board members acknowledge, and take some comfort from the fact, that the proposed system would be a significant improvement over the cesspool that currently exists at the property. The Board also observe that due to the layout of the property and the existing improvements, there really is no good alternative. Accordingly, while the Board generally limits the exercise of its waiver authority to proposals made under compelling circumstances, the members of the Board conclude that in this case such circumstances exist.
- Mr. Weber makes a motion to grant the requested waiver regarding the location of the well for the main house and approve the plan as proposed with the following changes accepted by Mr. Digney on behalf of the applicant:
 - a. Revise the plan to show a cleanout 5ft. from the home.
 - b. Change the 2” piping to 4” piping, which is required for a gravity system.
 - c. Revise the disposal bed plan view to be consistent, proportionately, with the actual dimensions of the bed, i.e., square.
- Mr. West seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL: YES

Mr. Atkins

Ms. Reale

Mr. Weber

Mr. West

HEALTH OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORTS

Reviewed by Ms. Freer. Full reports available in the Board of Health Office

August, 2023

- Dr. Perez and Assistant Health Officer, Stephanie Gorman, continue to work on the New Jersey Department of Health Enhancing Local Public Health Capacity (ELC) Grant.
- Ms. Freer states that the Department of Health has reduced the grant funding for immunizations from \$415,000 to \$90,000 due to congressional budget cuts.
- Ms. Freer explains that the federal and state government are no longer covering the cost of the covid-19 vaccine for the underinsured or the uninsured. Instead, the federal government has developed a bridge program with CVS and Walgreens, along with other participating pharmacies, that will provide the vaccinations at no cost.
- Ms. Freer states that the County would like to reserve as much of the grant funding as they can to immunize homebound residents who are unable to take advantage of the bridge program.
- The current cost of the covid-19 vaccine, to be provided by Atlantic Health, is \$130. The insured will be able to request reimbursement from their medial insurance carrier.
- Mendham Township will have its flu and covid-19 clinic on Monday, October 23. Residents seeking the covid-19 vaccine, who are un/under insured may be better off obtaining the covid-19 vaccine by participating in the bridge program at their local CVS or Walgreens.
- Two residents were exposed to bats. The bats were tested for rabies and the results were negative.
- The Public Health Nurse continues to review immunization records for Mendham Township day camps.
- The Health Education Field Representative created weekly educational flyers entitled, How to Grill Safely, Window Safety, Healthy Eating in Children and Back-to-School Vaccinations.
- A Lead testing event will be held on Saturday, October 28 at the Morris County Library. Residents are encouraged to bring consumer items, which will be scanned using an XRF Lead Detector, with results ready in minutes.
- Mr. Weber made a motion to accept the Health Officer's Report for the month of August as presented. Mr. Atkins seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: YES

Mr. Atkins

Ms. Reale

Mr. Weber

Mr. West

Meeting Adjourned: 8:46 pm