

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Sawyer Hall  
October 24, 2017

**Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.** by Sheila Litchfield, Chair with Brian DeVriese, Robyn Provost-Carlson and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

**Reviewed Agenda:** 10/17/17 minutes to be reviewed at next scheduled meeting.

**School Committee Representatives/ Efficiency & Regionalization Grant Discussion:** Deadline to submit Community Compact application is November 16, 2017. The goal tonight is to discuss the scope of request in an effort to obtain these funds to assist with the steps needed to amend the Hawlemont Regional School agreement to include Heath as a member town. Need to determine who will write the application and whether Heath applies alone or should it be a multi-municipal application with Hawley and Charlemont. The District has applied for a grant and Charlemont is submitting an application to this same program. Ken Roche, Budge Litchfield, and Bob Gruen attended tonight to add to the discussion. Ken feels legislators should be involved with this transition and that the grant should assist with consultant and legal fees as well as anything necessary for communications and education. Sheila will reach out to other towns for support. Budge feels the town has taken the necessary and proper steps so far in this transition, and that it was courageous to close our school and that it is a plus that it was done properly and collaboratively without litigation. Heath is moving forward and successfully. Parents are happy with transition and Budge received a lot of positive feedback at the recent Open House. Heath joining the Hawlemont District makes economic and educational sense. Discussed the transition costs and the ultimate benefit to tax payers. Ken added that it's important that Chap. 70 funds stay with the students. Linda Dunlavy agreed to assist with this application. Thank you to Ken, Budge and Bob for their continuing efforts.

**7:30 p.m. Ken Roche, Budge Litchfield, and Bob Gruen left meeting.**

Mohawk Trails Woodland Project: Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning & Development at FRCOG, and Bill Van Doren, Senior Scientist and Lead Biometrician at Spatial Informatics Group attended tonight with Art Schwenger, Heath's representative to the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Project Advisory Committee (MTWP) to offer an update on their work and to present information on carbon credit market opportunities. Nearby towns can join together for a total region encompassing roughly 4,300 acres of town owned property to pursue carbon credits or income to offset carbon emissions. The Select Board expressed interest in participating.

Once Federal funding is approved, it will provide opportunity through the MTWP for forest based economic development, land conservation, municipal financial sustainability, sustainable forestry practices, and natural resource based tourism. Towns can use funds from MTWP for forest management in the form of recreational trails, for example. Guests were thanked.

**8:06 p.m. Peggy Sloan, Bill Van Doren, and Art Schwenger left meeting.**

**Mike Shattuck, Highway Matters:** The Select Board, with prior notice to Mike Shattuck, has decided to enter into Executive Session. *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of MGL, Chap. 30A, Sect. 21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or*

*complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual, and to return to open session upon completion of executive session:*

*Sheila Litchfield, Aye*

*Brian DeVriese, Aye*

*Robyn Provost-Carlson, Aye.*

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**8:50 p.m. Open Select Board meeting resumes.**

**Review Minutes:** *On a motion by Robyn Provost-Carlson, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously, with one abstention, to approve the minutes of 9/26/17 as amended.*

**Mail/ Email:**

- Email from Jan Ameen re: landfill inspection. Kara will email DEP and ask opinion regarding application of herbicide to the landfill swales. Highway crew to pick up discarded tires.
- Various Emails re: E&R grant
- Email from Denise Allard/Colonial Power re: Aggregation and related documents. Board approved Press Release after review. Kara will call Denise Allard to confirm that only basic service customers will receive letters. Those using competitive suppliers will have to opt in.
- Email from Bill Ennen re: Recap of MBI Grant call and follow up email between Sheila and Ed Donnelly
- Email from Jan Carr re: Library
- Email from Mark Devylder re: small bridge program and application deadline Oct. 31, will discuss with Mike S.
- Emails re: Bob Kragen – no action.
- Email from Caitrin Westfield Gas & Electric re: Press Release for work beginning soon. Meeting Nov. 7, 10:30. Heath will provide pizza lunch.
- Letter from MMA re: Annual Meeting. No one will attend this year.
- Letter from Kris Nartowicz letting you know status of small business loan account
- Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services District letter: ACTION: Vote to continue with another three year term.
- Danek Excavating Proposal for Snow Removal Heath School. Board approved proposal for 2017-18 season.
- FCSWMD Exec. Director's Report/Program Director's Report
- Letter from Resident re: Police Dept. Kara will follow up.

**Other Separate Documents for review and/or signatures:**

- 9/26/17 minutes
- TC Report
- Email from Art re: Carbon Credit Market Opportunities (for discussion at 7:30)
- Payroll/Treasury Warrant
- Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services District Agreement
- Letter to Former Friends of Heath School Library Draft
- Memo to EAC to sign (approved as written Oct. 17, 2017)
- Amendment to Broadband Planning Assistance Grant Agreement
- FY19 Budget Planning Calendar – Kara will make adjustments and post/send copies to BOS and Assessors.

**Other Business:**

- **Broadband:** Town officials meeting with Westfield Gas & Electric for Kick Off meeting on Nov. 7, 2017 from 10:30 to 1:30 at Community Hall. Sheila and Kara participated in a call with Bill Ennen, our liaison with the State for the Broadband project. Our next call will be 11/21 at 11 am. These monthly calls are to stay connected and offer updates on project and funding. There may be

a new, flexible grant opportunity. Sheila told Mr. Ennen Heath would be interested in finding out more. Also, there is a software called Smartsheets that offer cloud based status reports specific to Heath.

- **Friends of Heath School Library:** Board of Selectmen will send a letter to discuss ownership and stewardship of Heath School library books.
- **Fire Chief Transition:** Discussed need to advertise for position or have a discussion at Shared Services meeting. Willing to consider Charlemont and Rowe in conversation. Current members in Heath reviewing duties and ways to delegate to distribute tasks for efficiency. Kara will reach out to FRCOG to express urgent need to meet with Charlemont and Rowe. Robyn has also been in discussions with Colrain. She will reach out to Ken Gilbert.
- **Heath Herald:** Sheila will write report and send to all for review including dogs, electrical aggregation program, broadband update, school transition update, transfer station project, security back-up, and Heath Veterans Memorial Committee's work.

### **Signed documents.**

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to sign:*

- Payroll/Treasury Warrant
- Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services District Agreement for three years
- Letter to Former Friends of Heath School Library
- Memo to EAC (approved as written Oct. 17, 2017)
- Amendment to Broadband Planning Assistance Grant Agreement

**Next meeting scheduled November 7, 2017 at 10:30 am at Community Hall.**

There being no further business to come before the Board: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.*

Respectfully presented,

Kara M. Leistyna  
Town Coordinator