

**Town of Heath
Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2018**

PRESENT: Betsy Kovacs, Susan Gruen, Henry Godek

ABSENT: Armand Clavette

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Sumner BoH Clerk, Andrea Crete FRCOG Health Director, Craig Gerry and Julie Sidon – owners of 612 Route Eight A

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

Meeting was **called to order** at 4:00pm.

Betsy thanked Craig and Julie for coming to the meeting. She read the letter BoH had sent to them dated September 6, 2018 siting the year round use of a camper trailer at 612 Route Eight A was a violation of MA State Sanitary Code, and Heath Zoning Bylaws and BoH Regulations, and for the resident of the camper to vacate by November 1, 2018. (A copy of the letter is attached to minutes).

The purpose of the meeting today is for the BoH to reconsider that decision at the request of Craig and Julie.

Julie read a letter she had written to the BoH (attached to minutes) which stated the amenities of the camper and the situation the resident is in. The resident, Bruce Herzig, also wrote a letter to the BoH which Betsy read.

Susan and Betsy asked several follow-up questions to further clarify the living situation, and asked about future living and health concerns.

The camper has two exits and a land-line phone, electricity, smoke and CO2 detectors, bathroom. Julie and Craig provide regular servicing of the waste. A secure trash can is outside the camper. Resident has access to laundry, shower, and trash disposal at the Sidon home. Julie provided photos of the inside of camper.

Betsy thanked them for the information; the BoH will review and discuss and get back to them with a decision. Craig and Julie left the meeting at 4:37pm.

BoH discussed the information, arguments pro and con, and history.

Owner has made all improvements requested by Andrea. Although living in the camper is against Town regulations, it has limited environmental impact as trash and waste are being properly disposed of. The BoH members discussed if enforcing the rules to have the occupant vacate the trailer and be homeless and return to sleeping in his vehicle, or permitting his continued occupancy of the trailer. Given the occupant's prior history and statements that he will not live elsewhere, it is highly unlikely that he would accept housing assistance of any kind.

After further discussion, a motion was made to allow a variance for Bruce Herzig to stay in the camper located at 612 Route 8A until November 5, 2019. At the end of that period, at the request of the

landowners, BoH will review the living situation and may issue an extension to the variance at its discretion. Motion carried.

Betsy will let Craig, Julie and Bruce know. She will also write a letter informing them of decision and conditions with a copy to the BoS and Planning Board.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Submitted by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk