

**Town of Heath - Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Betsy Kovacs - Chair, Henry Godek, Armand Clavette, John Palmer

**ALSO PRESENT:** Andrea Crete FRCOG Health Director, Mary Sumner BoH Clerk

**ABSENT:** Susan Gruen

Meeting was **called to order** at 4:10 pm.

1. **Reviewed agenda:** No changes
2. M/S/C to accept January 9, 2019 and February 4, 2019 **minutes** as presented.
3. **Chairman's Report:** Betsy reported that MAPHCO will embark on a strategic planning process which she is working on with Greg Lewis, FRCOG staff She also reported on CPHS news: Colrain has joined FRCOG and Nicole Zabko has been hired part time by FRCOG to oversee perc testing/Title V. She gave a Brief update on emergency planning event held at the former school building on March 11, 2019 and reviewed establishing an emergency shelter which the Board of Health is responsible for in an emergency.

Betsy met with Gene who was referred to her by Kara as a new property owner and potential BoH member. Gene has a full career-worth of experience in public health with the Navy. Since we now have a full Board, she recommended to the BoH members that we invite Gene to serve as an ex officio member of the Board. M/S/C: Betsy will invite Gene to serve as an ex officio member of the Board.

4. **Clerk report:** Mary noted she has begun researching CODE RED alternatives; and that renewal permit applications have been sent out to TOP holders that are due to expire this March.
5. **Budget:** We are on budget.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Nurses report.** Susan was not present for any updates.
2. **Heath Agent Enforcement Issues:**

Andrea gave further details on Nicole's duties at FRCOG.  
Andrea also reviewed the Local Upgrade requests listed under New Business:  
**63 Avery Brook Road:** due to the 100-foot length from tank to D-box Andrea is adding need for a clean out. M/S/C to approve LUA off-set to ground water.  
**148 Taylor Brook Road:** Andrea noted the new septic moves the leach field farther from the well. M/S/C to approve the LUA using a sieve analysis.  
**1 Rowe Road:** Andrea needs to review plan; will vote on LUA at April BoH meeting.
3. **7 Flagg Hill Road Extension:** Property owner was to come tonight at 4:30pm to discuss debris and trash complaint brought to BoH in November 2018. The owner did not appear. Board briefly

reviewed complaint. Mary will follow up with owner and explain procedures and next steps in the complaint process.

4. **5 Ledges Road (Town owned property):** The demolition went out to bid and has been awarded; DEP will oversee the process which will be started when the weather allows. BoH member had expressed concern over rodents, Mary will follow up with Town Coordinator to make sure a plan for rodent control is in place.
5. **16 Ledges Road:** Susan was not present for an update. Trailer is a zoning issue, not a health concern. To be discussed at next Board of Health meeting.
6. **3 Ledges:** Betsy will check with owner and Housing Authority in early April. Wet lands need to be delineated before a perc test can be done and the cost of this will be covered by the loan. All records BoH has regarding wetlands have been shared with Housing Authority and engineer. Still waiting for Spring at this point.
7. **166 Hosmer Road East:** Abandoned refrigerator that still had doors on appears to have been removed by property owner. Mary will send them a thank you. Unregistered vehicles still to be removed which is a Board of Selectmen issue.
8. **15 Ledges Road:** Reviewed latest email from property owner indicating that he will not remove additional debris. Andrea and BoH members will look at site once snow goes to decide next steps.
9. **Green Burials:** Betsy, John and Susan attended a meeting with the Cemetery Commission. The Commissioners agreed to amend the Bylaws removing the need for an impermeable shroud.
10. Reviewed and discussed the General Bylaws wording revisions the Board of Health would like regarding **unregistered vehicles**. Betsy will follow up further with the BoS to revise General Bylaws section 8.5 to remove reference to the BoH enforcing the Town Bylaws relating to unregistered vehicles.
11. **Well Regulations:** Briefly discussed changes in the well testing regulations and next steps to adopt. BoH will hold a public hearing on April 24, 2019 at 4:00pm for the purpose of adopting these regulations. Mary will post as necessary.

5:00 pm - At this point Board went to the Community Hall to review Emergency Shelter supplies and location training with Tim Lively.

5:38 pm resumed formal meeting in Town Hall.

12. Reviewed **Porta Potty** permit extension request received from ME. The BoH had issued a porta-potty permit for use during bathroom renovation for workers and for two skating parties. Bathroom renovation not completed. M/S/C: Extend permit till April 15, 2019. At the Jan. 9 meeting it was discussed how to make this policy and application clearer; Susan edited the existing permit. Board members will wait to review at next meeting when Susan is present. Mary will forward copies to all BoH members for review.
13. Betsy reviewed the question raised by Andrea regarding the **definition for campgrounds** and whether or not Mohawk Estates falls under that definition. BoH members do not believe ME falls under the campground definition because every lot is privately owned. Betsy asked for an opinion from the Planning Board members. They also do not believe ME is a campground. Andrea suggested that BoH get an opinion from Paul Hoffman, of MA Dept of Public Health; Armand will contact him and report back to the Board.
14. Reviewed the remaining **On Going or Suspended** items:
- a. **444 Route 8A:** no update, Building Inspector following up on.
  - b. **434 Route 8A:** BoH will check in with them in the Spring.
  - c. **38 Bray Road:** no update from Building Inspector. Susan to visit with Hawkins.
  - d. **594 Route 8A:** Camper trailer with zoning issue, no update from Building Inspector.
  - e. **52 Avery Brook:** Property has been sold, work being done.
  - f. **612 Route 8A:** review in October 2019
  - g. **Abandoned Houses Tool Kit:** This will be kept on the agenda for when we feel as a Board that we can start working on this.
- Discussion that BoH would like to be done monitoring many of these properties as the issues remaining are not under the jurisdiction of the BoH. Discussed options. M/S/C for Betsy to draft a letter to Building Inspector, copying the BoS and Planning Board, for items a, b, c, d, and e, noting the history of each and that the remaining issues are not BoH.
15. Betsy asked the Board members to discuss the proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaws removing BoH from enforcing any Zoning regulations and the TOP system. Briefly discussed the TOP system only works if people adhere to the Zoning Bylaws; that the system pays for itself through the fees collected; if TOP system is removed what would replace it? The TOP system is a way to get property owners to adhere to the Zoning Bylaws regarding the number of camper trailers. Health and safety issues associated with a camping trailer can be brought to the Board of Health on a case by case complaint basis. The BoH M/S/C to remove from the Zoning Bylaws section 4.10.3.I the reference to the Board of Health enforcing. Andrea will help draft a letter stating the issues.

## New Business

1. **25 West Branch Road- well permit request:** Property owner joined meeting at 6:00 pm. Reviewed well application and map created by property owner and information Mary had from property files. The exact location of the septic system is not known. Owner would like to drill the well while the ground is frozen, and conduct Title V after moving into renovated house. Board reminded owner that if he was then not able to locate a septic on property that was a risk he was taking. Owner agreed. M/S/C for Andrea to issue a well permit. Owner left meeting at 6:20 pm
2. Mary briefly reviewed the **pumping reports and Title V reports** received.

**Next BoH Meeting:** The next meeting was set for Wednesday, April 10, 2019 beginning at 4:00 pm. A public hearing will be held on April 24, 2019 at 4:00pm for the purpose of adopting the updated well regulations.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 pm

Submitted by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk