

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2019**

PRESENT: Betsy Kovacs, Armand Clavette, Henry Godek, Susan Gruen, John Palmer.

ALSO PRESENT: Heath Select Board, Members of the Finance Committee, Citizens

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

Meeting was **called to order** at 6:03 p.m., prior to 6:30 appointment before SB to provide update re: "Trailer violations," EEE, and 3 Ledges Road

1) Unregistered Vehicles: Betsy summarized BoH activity after its having been charged by SB to pursue and document all regulations generally and equitably. She noted, however, that it is not the responsibility of BoH to enforce Zoning regulations, which must be followed up on by Building Inspector, and chief of Police. Having undertaken the work to document possible violations of unregistered vehicles, the BoH feels strongly that the Building Inspector should continue this work. Susan Gruen expressed concern about the lack of follow-up and limited response from SB and Building Inspector and asked each of the Select Board Members to clarify the Board's position. Henry Godek noted that the BoH had spent a considerable amount of time doing its survey and expressed concern at lack of follow-up by SB. Armand Clavette stressed importance of upholding town bylaws if we were going to have them.

Brian De Vries said that the SB had reached out to Building Inspector Hawkins and the Chief of Police. Gloria Fisher said that she was not prepared to respond to Susan's request but felt that, though the Town should respond to infractions, it need not look for problems. Susan replied that it is necessary to examine the entire town to avoid seeming to pick on specific individuals; Betsy noted that she had been led to believe that the BoH had been charged with surveying the entire town. Robyn said that Jim Hawkins owes it to the town to respond to requests, but that we need to be careful, acknowledging that we cannot see all violations. Betsy indicated her confidence that we would, henceforth, get our money's worth from the Building Inspector.

2) EEE: Betsy summarized situation in Heath with respect to Eastern Equine Encephalitis, counseled individuals to take personal precaution and not hold activities during the dusk-to-dawn period, and expressed particular concern about well-being of town employees. She said that the Board of health would consider proposing to the town that it consider joining Franklin County's mosquito control District, which offered trapping, surveillance, testing, and at an annual cost to the town of \$5,000. Members of SB expressed concern over spraying and ability of the town to alert residents in due time. Betsy assured SB that there was no imminent thought of spraying—Spring being the optimal season—though noted that BoH and Commonwealth have superseding powers to order spraying in the event of emergency. Betsy noted too, in conclusion, that Heath's emergency team—particularly Tim Lively and Sheila Litchfield—put the town head and shoulders about other towns in emergency preparedness.

3) **3 Ledges Road**: Betsy summarized current state of house at 3 Ledges Road and likely declaration from Building Inspector that house is considered “unfit for human habitation.” She said that the BoH was actively engaged in helping residents find alternative emergency housing and that opinion regarding possible financial obligations for Town were still to come.

Meeting **adjourned** 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

John Palmer

Board member

DR