

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2019**

PRESENT: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman; Henry Godek – Acting Chair, Armand Clavette, Susan Gruen, John Palmer

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk, Randy Crochier- FRCOG Health Agent

ABSENT: Gene Garland: Ex officio BoH member

Meeting was **called to order** by Henry Godek in Kovacs' absence at 4:31 pm

M/S/C accept **minutes** of November 7, 2019 as amended.

Clerk report: no report. All is in order.

Budget: Mary noted all is in order. Noted semi-annual stipends can be submitted and let her know if you want yours.

Betsy Kovacs joined the meeting at 4:40 and chaired the rest of the meeting.

M/S/C to accept **minutes** of October 2, 2019 meeting as amended.

Chairman's Report: Betsy noted that Greg Lewis from the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition had wanted to speak at tonight's meeting about Emergency Preparedness, but due to the full agenda, he will come to a later meeting. Betsy also noted that she is on the sub-committee helping to select an engineer for the Brownfield's Project.

Susan Gruen gave an update on the supplies stored at the Heath School Building for emergencies. Many of the food and water supplies were expired, batteries were corroded and expired, alcohol wipes were dried out. All bad items were thrown away and Susan has made a list of what is needed to replenish. Discussed funding options. Hilma Sumner pointed out that there might be available funds in Town budget held under Ice Storm Donations. Sheila Litchfield has the list of needed items and will contact Greg Lewis at Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG) as well to see if there is assistance available. Susan will follow up with Sheila on funding and ordering. Susan also gave an update on the Senior Emergency Contact list. The lists need to be finalized.

Betsy gave an update on the Board of Health (BoH) request to the Select Board (SB) to join the **Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District**. Betsy has provided draft wording for the warrant article to the Town Coordinator. The SB has invited Carolyn Shores Ness to speak to the SB about the District. BoH should plan to attend this meeting once the date is known. There has been a lot of confusion about the need to provide funding to join. SB has asked BoH to research the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program as a possible source for funding; Betsy has been getting information on MVP which she will give to SB and noted there is help through FRCOG for filling out the grant application.

Betsy and Susan both reported on the process to have **remote participation** in meetings approved. They have researched other local towns that have such a policy and have gotten examples of policy wording for SB to review. Town Coordinator is also working on this.

Business:

Briefly reviewed and discussed BoH members' requirements including tank pumping and safety updates for extending permit for temporary occupancy of trailer at the **612 Route 8A** property.

Health Agent report:

Randy and Betsy gave an update on **3 Ledges Road**. Owner is still looking for housing. As the owner was not able to come to tonight's meeting to report on any improvements, Randy will contact owner to set up a reinspection of the property to see if any work has been started/completed on code violations. Reviewed time-line and discussed next possible steps: BoH can choose to start the condemnation process by issuing an order to condemn; BoH can choose to take to Housing Court to have house condemned making it a court order; BoH can extend current BoH order; or BoH can begin issuing fines for violations choosing to either waive fines or collect fines.

M/S/C for Randy to reinspect the property and issue the second order to correct if needed. Vote was unanimous. BoH will review Randy's findings at next BoH meeting.

7 Flagg Hill Extension: Randy viewed this property from the road. There appears to be many items that need to be cleaned up, not all are trash. Owner contacted BoH about a medical issue. Based on owner's health and winter season BoH will revisit this property in the Spring. Mary and Randy will contact owner and stay in contact as Spring arrives.

25 West Branch Road: BoH had contacted owner to remind of need for Title V. Owner contacted BoH to say he feels Title V will not pass due to age and location of system (across the road from house) and requests to skip Title V and instead begin process for installing a new septic system. Randy feels this is in the best interest of all. Discussed next step would be a perc test and then system design. Discussed time-line. M/S/C to waive Title V provided owner applies for and pays application fee for a perc test no later than March 1, 2020. Mary will write to owner and monitor compliance with date.

20 Judd Road: Based on the tenant's letter concerning mold, Randy inspected this property. He briefly reviewed his report on the mold as well as structural, electrical and safety issues he found. Randy has spoken both with the tenant and the property owner. Based on his inspection a Notice of Code Violation, Order to Correct was issued. The owner has until December 30, 2019 to make repairs. Randy will reinspect on or about December 31, 2019 and advise BoH at next meeting.

4 Apache Drive: Randy viewed this property from road as well as from complainant's yard. There are some items that appear to be refuse that should be picked up. Many issues are zoning issues (unregistered cars, tractor trailer). Randy feels this is a low priority property. Hard to determine if items are stored for off-season. Revisit in Spring.

21 / 27 West Brook Drive: Randy drove by this property and spoke with owner and is providing guidance for the debris situation. After discussions with owner, Randy is holding off on this property

Reviewed **Nurses report** for November and noted Claire's continued dedication to serving our community.

At 5:54 pm Julie Sidon and Craig Gerry joined the meeting to discuss **612 Route 8A**.

Betsy thanked them for coming to the meeting and noted that it is important to do this annual review to make sure no significant changes have occurred, to review the camper occupancy, and to make sure they want the situation to continue. Discussed current living conditions, pumping report and schedule, schedule of requirements set forth last year (CO2 detector, hand washing water). Randy will visit the property location to review for any safety or health concerns. BoH will review Randy's report at next BoH meeting and make a decision about extending the temporary occupancy permit.

Julie and Craig left the meeting at 6:25 pm

Temporary Occupancy Permitting and Zoning of camper trailers discussion. Armand noted that the Zoning Bylaw was enacted in May of 2005. Board members tried to recall the circumstances at that time that led to the bylaw's creation. Betsy questioned how the MA housing code pertains to campers. This led to a discussion of definition of temporary housing and 30-day limit. Randy said the regulation is not clear; it notes 30 days of use but does not state whether they are consecutive. Discussion turned to how to enforce and raised many questions: how do you know who hasn't applied for a permit, what about people who own a camper but never use it in Heath (use it for travel), how to treat registered with a State license plate verses unregistered, how to know waste is disposed of? Reviewed that the BoH has the right to inspect a camper from the road if there is a complaint, contact camper owner if needed.

(Alice Wozniak joined the meeting as an audience member at 6:43 pm)

BoH discussed the benefits of the existing program: you know where campers are and that they are being used and a sense of how waste is being addressed, and it helps prevent or limit property owners from putting campers just anywhere on their property. Also limits the number of campers per property. The permitting process also reinforces awareness of the regulations. BoH does not have a sense of the number of campers with or without license plates. BoH discussed the number of campers in Mohawk Estates that have both permitted and unpermitted structures built over them or next to (like a deck/porch) and even attached to them. These are Zoning and Building Inspector issues and do not fall under the BoH.

Alice asked to comment and noted her understanding that Zoning does not have enforcement power over where registered vehicles are parked.

Discussion was tabled. Will discuss further at next BoH meeting and determine next steps for amending and/or continuing temporary occupancy permitting process.

BoH members reviewed sewage complaint received for **594 Route 8A**. Randy did a drive-by to see property. No one was home so he only viewed from road. Will go by again as it will take multiple drive bys to determine if a reasonable suspicion

Mary reviewed recent **Title V requests**: 11 Ledge Road- applied for Title V and also repair of existing cracked D-box; 25 Groll Road is in the process of repairing failed septic.

Mary noted an **email letter** that was sent to SB and cc'd to BoH, Planning Board, Hawkins, expressing concern over the porta-potty located at ME community building. This is the porta-potty the BoH issued a permit for at our last meeting. Mary informed Hilma that the porta-potty was permitted for repair worker's use and event use. Other issues noted in letter are zoning concerns.

Email correspondence: Jenny Hamilton advised BoH that she will not be able to trap beavers as hoped and wanted her permit ended or postponed. No change will be made to existing permit. Mary will advise her to apply for a new permit in Spring.

M/S/C to adjourn at 7:04pm

Next meeting date January 2, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Minutes written by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk.