Town of Heath - Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
March 25, 2020

PRESENT on Conference Call: Betsy Kovacs, Armand Clavette, Henry Godek, Susan Gruen, John Palmer; Gene Garland, ex officio

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

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

1. Meeting was called to order at 11:30am by Betsy Kovacs.

Betsy noted that the BoH conference call meeting on March 21, 2020 was not valid due to an error in posting.

2. Reviewed minutes of March 3, 2020 meeting; motion by Susan to accept minutes as amended, seconded by John; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. (Godek abstained as he was not present at March 3 meeting)

3. Reviewed written notes from March 21 conference call submitted by John Palmer. Appended to these minutes as a record. Betsy asked that the minutes note that her recollection of that meeting is that the motion made by Armand at the March 21 phone call mentioned on Mohawk Estates. She said that was the reason she offered an amendment to that motion to encompass all of the Town of Heath.

4. Temporary occupancy trailer/campers: Board reviewed email from Select Board member Gloria Fisher (attached to minutes) in which she noted several questions and concerns in relation to the Board of Health considering limiting temporary occupancy of campers during Covid -19 outbreak.

Betsy asked for a motion so we could begin a discussion.

Henry made a motion that the Board of Heath adopt the draft Emergency Order concerning temporary occupancy permits for camper trailers which he drafted and was distributed to BoH members in advance of the meeting. (Draft order attached to minutes) Seconded by John.

John expressed concern over issuing an order that the Select Board appears to be questioning. Some members and Randy said this is a health concern so BoH has jurisdiction. Discussed the hauling of camper waste (raw sewage), possibly contaminated, from camper locations to dumping station, concern over multiple people using one water source, rec. hall area for showers.

Armand asked if anyone had reached out to Jenny Hamilton, President of the Mohawk Estates Association, to see what the Mohawk Estates Association is considering doing, if anything. Betsy noted she was waiting to get a sense of our BoH views on the situation before calling her. Mary
reviewed the notes she had from the March 18, 2020 BoH meeting noting we asked Randy to draft a letter listing concerns as a way to reach out to Mohawk Estates. Further discussion on concern of issuing an order without first talking to Jenny or Association.

Gene noted Gloria’s concerns and that the Estates doesn’t open till May 15, 2020 and said perhaps we should involve all the stakeholders in a meeting where we communicated our concerns and have a plan before the May 15 opening date. John would like to include all the stakeholders in a meeting prior to making a decision or issuing an order.

Armand noted most of the campers are located there already, they are left there year-round, and that with the nice weather owners have been coming up for the day. BoH members expressed concern of hearing that people are already going to properties in Mohawk Estates.

Susan Gruen left the meeting at this point, 12:02 pm

Discussion over waiting to issue an order and timing based on the quickly changing events with Covid-19. People will come to Heath to get away from more populated spaces and delay by BoH may make the situation worse.

Betsy suggested an amendment to the motion to add not adopting the order till after talking with Mohawk Estates.

Discussed whether or not the motion should or could be amended.

Henry withdrew his motion.

Betsy made a motion to gather further information and contact Jenny Hamilton for input and for the Board to meet again in 48 hours to review and vote. Seconded by Armand. Kovacs-aye, Palmer-aye, Clavette- aye, Godek-aye. (Gruen had left the meeting prior to this vote)

5. Closing playgrounds and basketball court: Betsy noted that there has been confusion over exactly what was closed in Town. What was proposed at the March 16th meeting to close all Town buildings and properties to all but essential workers, was not included in the Select Board’s Order to close Town buildings. Gene said properties were mentioned in the reverse-911 script. Betsy reported that she wrote to the Select Board last week requesting that the SB close playgrounds and bball court. The SB asked Betsy to bring it to the BoH members for discussion and a possible recommendation. A motion was made to write to Select Board supporting the proposal to close those areas. Betsy will write to the SB. Kovacs-aye, Palmer-aye, Clavette- aye, Godek-aye. (Gruen had left the meeting prior to this vote)

6. Betsy asked the board for discussion about green burials during Covid-19. After a brief discussion it was decided to have Randy get information and advice from the Green Burial Association to discuss further at a future meeting.
7. **Chairman’s Report:** Reviewed the Unified Command Structure and noted possible use of school building at 18 Jacobs Road being used as the crisis continues. Noted tracking of expenses related to Covid-19 including volunteer hours. Board members asked to keep track of hours and expenses for potential reimbursement in the future.

MAPHCO Steering Committee is meeting weekly for Covid-19 updates. Betsy participates. Open to all.

8. **BoH Clerk Report:** Mary has been confirming how to access BoH phone and computer files from home in the event the office/Town Hall needs to be completely closed. A copy of passwords and how to’s will be kept by both Mary and Betsy and submitted to the Town Coordinator for the COOP.

9. **Budget:** BoH line item may be considered to purchase supplies if needed for Covid-19. Subscription cost to ZOOM for remote meetings will be submitted for reimbursement.

10. **Nurse report:** Claire, Susan, Margo, Tim, Betsy have been keeping in touch with people listed on our vulnerable list.

11. **Mosquito District:** Susan wrote to Betsy requesting that the issue of joining the District be discussed. Betsy reviewed that due to the postponement of the Special Town Meeting till April 14, the vote to join district is delayed. She will check with Carolyn Ness, District Commissioner, to see if Town can join without a Town vote.

12. **Health Agent Update:** Randy noted work on Covid-19 issues. FRCOG has hired two nurses to help do contact tracing and follow Covid-19 cases. They will be paid through an emergency State fund.

Randy has received updates as required from 3 Ledge Road. No change in situation.

Randy recommends all other properties on the ongoing or suspended list should be left tabled till the Covid situation is over. Randy reported that when the crisis is over FRCOG will be behind on all food inspections, housing inspections and septic related activities.

13. **Next meeting date** was set for March 27, 2020 at 4:00pm


Minutes for conference call meeting written by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk

Attachment: John Palmers notes from 3.21.2020 conference call

Email from Gloria Fisher

Draft Order prepared by Godek