

**Town of Heath - Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
March 27, 2020**

**4:00 pm**

**Held by conference call due to Coronavirus pandemic and Governor's orders.**

**Conf call: put telephone numbers in here**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Randy Crochier-FRCOG Health Director; Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk, Jenny Hamilton- President of the Mohawk Estates Association, Desiree D'Agostino, Lynn Revolists (Spelling?)

**Presiding:** Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

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

Reviewed **minutes** of March 25, 2020 meeting. Motion by John to accept minutes as amended, seconded by Henry. Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Godek-Aye. Gruen abstained as she had left meeting before adjournment.

**1. Betsy gave a brief update on Covid-19**

- A Reverse 911-call will go out to residents this evening giving a brief update and listing contact information for help if needed.
- Gene Garland offered to set up a Facebook page for BoH to communicate news and updates. John made a motion for a Facebook page to be created to list news and information related to BoH. Seconded by Susan. Board discussed and noted need to post information from valid sources only.

Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Godek-Aye. Gruen -Aye.

- Reviewed current cases of Covid-19 in Franklin County are now at 17.
- Reviewed the Governor's latest advisory on travel and need to quarantine for 14 days if you are coming to MA. Advised to not travel to MA if feeling sick.

**2. Temporary occupancy permits for camper trailers.** Betsy and Randy reviewed the phone conversation they had on March 26 with Jenny Hamilton, President of Mohawk Estates (ME). The ME board is meeting on March 29 to discuss how to address Covid-19. Jenny will share the Board of Health's concerns and is advocating to her Board for the beach and public areas to be closed. Based on this conversation, Randy recommends the BoH move both item #2 (TOP) and

#3 (beach, rec. hall, dumping station) from today's agenda to a future meeting held after ME has their meeting on Sunday.

Betsy called for motion;

John made a motion to postpone a discussion and vote on item 2 and item 3 (TOP) and closing beach, rec hall, dumping station) of today's agenda till next BoH meeting on April 1, 2020; seconded by Armand.

Discussion: Henry noted he would like to know that ME will also address the public water supply. Randy noted that the well at ME is a private well and not a public water supply as defined by DEP.

Susan would like to know the decision of the ME Board as soon as possible from Jenny. Jenny agreed to send a copy of the letter she will send after her Board meeting on Sunday, to Betsy and Randy. Betsy will send to BoH as soon as she receives. It.

Jenny Hamilton spoke to the items she will address with her board: beach, playground, rec. hall, and scheduled events. Also, she would like to ask ME property owners who do not reside in Town to self-quarantine on property if they do go to Heath come, to not get mail or walk around Town. Mary asked about the current permitted port-a-potty for renovations and events. and would that be removed. Jenny reminded the BoH members it was permitted till April 30, but will review retaining it with her Board.

Discussed if this would be a postponed opening or an opening with conditions. Jenny noted that the ME Board was not proposing closing the estates as they aren't even open for the season. The water and dumping station are not open yet but people can use playground and beach as there is no means to monitor their use. She wants to ask people not to use those areas and post them as closed. She said the ME Board will revisit opening the water and dumping station as the May 15<sup>th</sup> date gets closer to determine when they might open them.

Armand asked what BoH will do about other campers in town, specifically 612 Route 8A. We will add those items to the agenda for discussion and decisions at the April 1, 2020 meeting.

Betsy called for a vote on the motion. Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Godek-Aye. Gruen-Aye.

Betsy noted she received a question from Select Board concerning second homeowners coming to Heath. Betsy reported that when the PO mistress and others inform her of people traveling to Heath, Susan and she contact those people reminding them of the directives to stay at home in self-quarantine for 14 days, have others bring them their mail and groceries. Betsy has also been giving daily updates to EMD and Asst EMD to forward to Chairman of Select Board during their daily calls. BoH members discussed how to identify and communicate with all second homeowners.

Henry made a motion for the BoH to make an advisory mirroring the Governors' to have people self-quarantine for 14 days after traveling to Heath from elsewhere, and to inform/communicate this to all taxpayers in Heath. Seconded by Susan. Discussion of reverse-911 call or letter or posters as being the most effective channels of communication to reach all taxpayers and residents or returning residents. Concern for renters, how to reach. Concern over how to enforce. Randy noted it is an advisory and not an Order so the only 'enforcement' is to educate individuals to comply. Betsy noted today's reverse-911 call is already in process and unlikely possible to add to it for today. While all were in agreement on need for an advisory, how to get information out to all citizens was unclear beyond a robo call.

Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Godek-Aye. Gruen-Aye.

Betsy noted **the emails** she received from a Heath resident requesting that the decision to close the basketball court be reconsidered by the BoH (attached).

Henry made a motion to reconfirm the decision to send a letter to the Select Board supporting closure of the playgrounds and basketball courts and in the letter to ask for signs to be installed and to list the specific locations. Seconded by John.

Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Godek-Aye. Gruen -Aye.

**Health Agent Update: 3 ledge Rd.** The property owners have been giving updates on progress on dates as required. With Covid-19, progress in finding alternative housing is slow. Many agencies have staff working from home so no one is answering phone. Randy notes owner is working on the need as much as they can.

**Public Comment:** Betsy asked if the Board would be willing to hear from a citizen who had joined our conference call meeting today. All agreed ok.

Desiree D'Agostino described in detail a situation concerning her elderly parent who is a resident of Heath and a person who came to her door requesting signatures on a nomination paper. Ms. D'Agostino expressed concern for elderly parents' welfare especially in the current Covid-19 situation. Betsy reported that she had been notified of Ms. D'Agostino's call to the Town Coordinator and EMD and would write to the person who went to the door asking that he stay at home as advised by the Governor. She noted that since there is no Order to stay at home, the BoH can not legally enforce that advisory, but can educate people about advisories and best practices. Board thanked Desiree for bringing this issue to our attention.

Betsy reviewed upcoming meetings for MDPH, MAPHCO, MEMA and EDS

Next BoH meeting was set for April 1, 2020 at 4:30 pm. (After the meeting it was noticed this date/time conflicted with the Heath EMT meeting, so BoH meeting was moved to 6:30pm)

Minutes written by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk

Attachments: emails -Basketball