

**Town of Heath - Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
April 1, 2020**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Randy Crochier-FRCOG Regional Health Agent; Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk, Jenny Hamilton, President Mohawk Estates; Nina Marshall, Town resident

**Absent:** Gene Garland, ex officio

**Presiding:** Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

1. Meeting was **called to order** at 6:31 pm by Betsy Kovacs.

2. Reviewed **minutes** of March 18, 2020 meeting; motion by Susan to accept minutes as presented, seconded by John; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Aye.

Reviewed **minutes** of March 27, 2020 meeting; motion by Susan to accept minutes as presented, seconded by John; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Aye.

3. **Chairman's report:** Betsy reviewed the following:

- Unified Command Structure: several of the items discussed earlier at today's UCS meeting will be discussed by BoH including reverse-911 call and basketball court; BoS also voted to extend building closure till May 4<sup>th</sup> to be consistent with Governor's Order.
- Expense tracking: based on the command structure all expenses will be tracked by Town Coordinator. BoH members should keep track of extra hours incase MEMA funds become available. Out-of-pocket expenses should be submitted to Town Coordinator for reimbursement.
- MAPCHO: is working on consistent, accurate messaging BoH can use to send to communities, reviewed by the Multi-Agency Communication Center-MAC- a local version of MEMA.

Jenny Hamilton joined the conference call at 6:38 pm

Nina Marshall joined the conference call at 6:39 pm

4. **Clerk Report:** Mary noted she has only gone to office to check email and phone and works from home. There have not been any calls regarding Covid-19 except for one media call. Noted bulk of time has been meetings and typing minutes. She updates BoH web page.

5. **Budget:** all in order.

6. **Nurse update:** Susan reported she has updated the BoH list of people in town who might have needs. She has checked in with Claire, all seems to be going fine. Claire and Betsy will receive notice of any positive cases of Covid-19 through MAVEN. Lisa White and she will do follow up as needed.

7. **Health Agent Report:** Randy noted case tracking for Covid-19 is the bulk of his work at the moment. He expects to see cases climb in the next few weeks. Reviewed the latest CPHS meeting noting similar work all Towns are doing for Covid-19.

Randy had a phone conversation with owner of **3 Ledge Road**. There have been no changes or updates. BoH reviewed the May 6 deadline date. With Select Board and Governor extending closure to May 4, Board will have to adjust timeline if needed. Randy and Mary will review what the last BoH Order stated and have information for Board to review at next BoH meeting.

Susan expressed concern over dogs not being licensed or vaccinated. Noted that this is the Town Clerk's responsibility. Nina Marshall expressed concern over dogs as they are in center of Town. BoH advised her to speak to Town Clerk who is responsible for licensing of dogs and working with the Dog Officer.

8. **Temporary occupancy trailer/campers:** For information Betsy reviewed the Governor's recent advisory against short term rentals, Air BnB, BnB'b, and time shares. Although this advisory does not cover campers, it is important to note as it shows the concern for use of temp occupancy dwellings.

Betsy made a motion that the BoH suspend issuing Temporary Occupancy Permits until further notice. Seconded by Susan.

#### Discussion

- Would we process permit renewals already in the office or suspend any work on this?
- Jenny Hamilton- President of the Mohawk Estates Association noted that suspending or delaying permitting will add more misunderstandings about the need for a permit. She also noted that many campers have own well and septic and belong to 'snowbirds' so this is their summer home. Telling them not to come would be keeping them from their homes.
- Reviewed Zoning Regulation as to wording on number of days for occupancy, briefly discussed.
- Randy noted the Governor's order stating that any current permits issued that are due to expire before the May 4<sup>th</sup> advisory date were automatically extended to May 4<sup>th</sup> PLUS 45 days.

Betsy noted she would be willing to amend her motion to state 'delay issuing' instead of 'suspend issuing', but further stated she feels the Board should wait to vote on this issue until the next BoH meeting.

Henry made a motion to table a vote on TOP for one week until our next BoH meeting. Seconded by John. Kovacs-Aye; Clavette-Aye; Gruen-Aye; Palmer- Aye, Godek-Aye.

**612 Route 8A:** Randy has had no communication from property owner and with Covid-19 has not done another visit. Mary will reach out by email to owner asking for information and expressing concern due to current Covid-19 crisis and ask for update on provisions made for hygiene.

Jenny Hamilton left the conference call at 7:09pm

9. Betsy reviewed the Select Board's response concerning **closure of the basketball courts**. SB discussed the courts at their March 16 meeting and again at today's Emergency Planning Team meeting. At today's meeting, SB voted to support whatever decision the BoH wants. The BoH has recommended closure and has reaffirmed this consensus twice at previous meetings. Reviewed emails SB received from citizens expressing wish to keep courts open for families. Nina Marshall was asked to speak to share her points.

Nina feels there is limited exposure with responsible people, suggested a sign-up sheet for helping to space families, noted the benefit she feels her kids get from court.

Betsy noted BoH has three options:

- To again support closing basketball court but let SB vote to do so.
- To vote to close basketball court and let SB know of decision and BoH issue an Order.
- To vote to keep basketball court open.

Susan made a motion to reaffirm the BoH decision to have SB close the basketball court based on the Covid-19 peak being on or about April 14. Seconded by Armand.

Susan noted she hears Nina's concerns and points about needed exercise, but the peak is coming. Susan sees individuals and families using the court in the center and no one has any idea who was just there or what they were doing, if they are sick. There is no way to monitor.

John noted it will be hard to know it is just 'one family' using court at a time.

Henry noted a study showing Covid-19 survives for 72 hours on contact surfaces including rim, hoop and backboard. How would we sterilize between families?

Concern of how Town or BoH would police usage. If Center of Town is seen as an open and busy area this is sending the wrong message of the need for social distancing. Randy noted that there are so many variables to try to control that the only way to control will be to shut down access. Closing the court leaves no variables to address.

Nina thanked the Board for its consideration. Nina left the meeting at 7:28 pm

Betsy called for a vote on the motion- Kovacs-Aye; Clavette-Aye; Gruen-Aye; Palmer- Aye, Godek-Aye. The motion to close the basketball court passed unanimously. Betsy will let SB know of BoH decision.

10. Betsy noted the **Facebook page** created for the BoH by Gene Garland. Gene was not here to give further information. Facebook page will only list Town notices, and info from CDC,NIH, or MDPH.

11. Discussed communications from BoH.

- Weekly communication in the form of a reverse 911 call on Fridays, reviewed information to include: latest updates from each week (IE basketball courts closed, and Town hall closed till May 4) .
- Letter to all taxpayers. Discussed possible info to include: facebook page, BoH page on Town website, recent advisories on travel and rentals, permit extensions if they happen

12. Betsy reviewed the upcoming meetings for this week dealing with Covid-19. Noted that the meetings overlap both in topic and key players so maybe will go to one or two larger meetings.

She stressed for the Board to please try to call in to attend as many meetings as they can so we all stay up to date on the situation and needs as they become known.

13. **Next meeting date** for the BoH was set for Thursday April 9, 2020 at 4:00pm

14. Motion to **adjourn** at 7:48pm made by Susan; seconded by Henry. All were in favor. Kovacs-Aye; Clavette-Aye; Gruen-Aye; Palmer- Aye, Godek-Aye.

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

Attachment: emails on basketball court