

Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2020

By conference call

PRESENT on Conference Call: Betsy Kovacs-Chair of Board, Henry Godek, Susan Gruen, John Palmer.

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

Absent: Armand Clavette, Gene Garland, ex officio Board of Health member.

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

Meeting was **called to order** at 3:00 pm by Betsy Kovacs.

1. Reviewed **minutes** of April 16, 2020 meeting.

Motion by Susan to accept minutes as written, seconded by John; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Aye.

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

- Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) established by MA, will have 1000 workers doing the contact tracing for local boards of health. Every municipality will have to use this system. This will allow local regional nurses to continue to provide health services and not focus all time on contact tracing Betsy explained how the system works.
- At the EMT meeting it was noted schools and day care centers are closed through end of 'school year'. Also noted the MACC is asking for feed back from member Towns on planning how to reopen Town buildings. There is no plan to open any buildings yet, but MACC wants to support local towns to begin drafting a process or measures for decision-making about reopening.
- EDS is meeting every other week; next meeting is April 27. They have not been meeting weekly as first planned and Betsy noted keeping an eye out for updates on meetings.
- PPE's were available from FRCOG through CPHS. Betsy was able to get gloves, masks, gowns and posters for parks and trails. She has distributed as needed in Town, keeping some for elections in June and passing extra on to Rowe Town Nurse.

3. Nurse update: Susan noted Maya Rocke made masks to hand out at Post office and that people have been taking them for use. Noted several individuals still do not wear masks and choose to come to Post Office after hours. Susan noted her continued concern for all, including Post Office workers. Post Office personnel not wearing face coverings.

5. **Covid- 19 issues:**

- Betsy asked Randy to explain options for enforcement of advisories, especially wearing of face coverings. Randy noted difference between and advisory vs. order: an advisory does not have to be followed but individuals are strongly encouraged to do so. An order is stronger and can be enforced with fines. Randy noted fines are not easy to issue and also may add to resistance. Even if the Governor made face masks 'mandatory', concern over who and how to enforce. Henry and John noted their thoughts that if we try to enforce there will be pushback and the best thing to do is to keep encouraging and educating about best practices and the need to protect each other. Noted adding to current poster that masks prevent the spread of aerosol droplets. Mary will make a small sign for entrance to Post Office.
- 911- reverse call system: Betsy noted our minutes on current plan are almost used up with the Covid-19 messaging we have been doing. The plan is being extended to start May 1st and expense will be covered by the Covid-19 funding. This week's message needs to be kept very short to stay within remaining minutes. Ideas for message included need to wear a face covering, calling 911 for emergencies and not to fear getting medical care, continuing social distancing. Betsy will draft and distribute to BoH member to edit.
- Susan asked about the need for weekly BoH meetings. Betsy noted it is good to post for a meeting so we can always hold one since we are in a crisis period. We can always cancel if not needed.

5. **Temporary occupancy trailer/campers:** Reviewed at our last meeting minutes. Mary noted the renewals she has gotten for TOP and asked if she should start to renew permits or wait till after Covid-19.

Susan made a motion to process the TOP applications during Covid-19, and to include the BoH letter sent to all property owners and a copy of the Mohawk Estates letter. Seconded by Henry.

Gruen – Aye, Palmer – Aye, Godek – Aye, Kovacs -Aye

6. **612 Route 8A:** Randy noted his paperwork for this property is at his FRCOG office and he does not believe he will go to office before June. He counseled tabling the situation during Covid-19. The Board expressed concern over not following up. Randy and Mary will review notes and decide on next steps for consideration by BoH at next meeting.

Randy noted day camps may be opening in near future to provide care for families since school is over till fall.

Next meeting date for the BoH was set for Wednesday April 29, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Motion to **adjourn** at 4:01 pm made by Susan; seconded by John. All were in favor. Kovacs-Aye; Gruen-Aye; Palmer- Aye, Godek-Aye.

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