

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2020**

By conference call

PRESENT on Conference Call: Betsy Kovacs-Chair of Board, Henry Godek, Susan Gruen, John Palmer, Armand Clavette, Gene Garland, ex officio Board of Health member.

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk, Randy Crochier-FRCOG Regional Health Agent, Jenny Hamilton-President of Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association.

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

Meeting was **called to order** at 5:01 pm by Betsy Kovacs.

1. Chairman's report: Betsy reviewed the following:

- At the EMT meeting current cases in MA were reviewed and noted that there are still new cases and deaths but the rate of infection has slowed. There will be a 4-stage reopening plan set to begin on Monday May 18.
- MDPH has shared guidance on the role of BoH in regards to town meetings and elections. Betsy shared this information through email with BoH members. LBOHs are to be consulted prior to postponing town meetings.
- Testing criteria changed: If an individual has been in close contact with a known positive, they should be tested.
- No news from Ag. Society on use of Fair grounds. They postponed Board meeting to wait for Governor's new order May 18.

2. Elections and Absentee Ballots: Betsy reviewed the email she had sent to BoH from Donna Brewer, (attorney with Miyares-Harrington Law Firm) concerning messaging the BoH could send to residents about elections and safe voting. A message could be sent from LBOH giving information on safely voting in person or in advance by absentee balloting. Betsy would like noted in minutes that Ms. Brewer heads the firm's litigation and employment practice groups, with depth of knowledge in the full range of matters of particular concern to municipal government, such as Town Meeting, municipal finance, personnel issues, and local board practice and procedure.

3. Town Meeting: Brian DeVries Chairman Select Board is preparing a drawing of a plan to see how many people could fit into 18 Jacobs Road while meeting social distancing requirements. Beyond the social distancing aspect BoH members expressed concern over condition of parking lot for parking, uneven sidewalks and worry of parents bringing kids to meeting as they have done in years past. With Town Meeting being a month away BoH feels it should wait for drawing to be finished, review the Governor's announcement on May 18, before giving further directives. BoH will make recommendations following next BoH meeting. Those recommendations to possibly amend recommendations made previously to Select Board on meetings and elections.

4. Covid- 19 issues:

- A new internet hot spot is being installed at the 18 Jacobs Road site. Twn is required to post signs concerning safety with Covid-19. ary and Randy will work on wording and Betsy will get signs printed and posted.
- Mohawk Estates: Betsy and Randy reviewed conversations he had with Jenny Hamilton and the possible opening of the waste dumping and well facilities at Mohawk Estates.
 Jenny spoke about the Board of Directors discussing plans to reopen those two items but not opening the club house or beach/playground area.
 Betsy and Randy noted the email conversations they had with Cheryl Sbarra, Director of Policy and Law at the MA Association of Health Boards, and Paul Halfmann, Assistant Director Community Sanitation Program, and noted they feel the opening is with in the guidelines of the Governor for second home use.
 BoH expressed concern over out-of-state owners and quarantine requirements. Jenny noted 90 percent of owners live in Massachusetts. ME asks all owners to 'quarantine' on own property and inside Mohawk Estates boundaries. Only one at a time at dumping station and well site. Henry expressed concern over the spirit of the quarantine order not being adhered to if people go to well and dumping area. Also concern of sanitation between users. Jenny noted a hand-washing station is available and there will be someone in ME office to help monitor. Also 24-hour camera so they can review any issues.
 Armand suggested only allowing the well and dump site to be open for a few hours a day. Jenny felt that was too restrictive and noted again that both the well and dumping station only allow for one user at a time.
 Betsy noted that the BoH appreciates the efforts ME Association is making and asked Jenny to advise property owners of all orders for face coverings, social distancing and quarantine and to further remind ME Board and owners that the rec. hall and public beach/playground are to stay closed. Jenny left the meeting at 5:45pm
- 911- reverse call ideas for this week's message discussed: face coverings, nicer weather but safest to not have social gatherings, social distancing. Betsy will draft and distribute to BoH members to edit.

Next meeting date for the BoH was set for Wednesday May 25, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Motion to **adjourn** at 5:50 pm made by Henry; seconded by Susan. All were in favor.

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

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