

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2020**

By conference call

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk, Ken Rocke

ABSENT: Gene Garland, ex officio Board of Health member.

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

Meeting was **called to order** at 11:01 am by Betsy Kovacs.

Betsy welcomed Ken to our meeting and reviewed that Ken had been at the Select Board meeting to share his thoughts on Town Meeting /Public meetings based on information he has gained from his brother who is very active in the COVID-19 Pandemic at the University of California. The SB asked Ken to share his concerns and his knowledge at our meeting today.

Ken briefly reviewed information he has gained from his brother including COVID-19 spread by aerosols, surface life, outdoor vs. indoor transmission rates, and the age of most vulnerable. Betsy thanked Ken and noted we would be discussing Town meeting later in meeting.

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

- MDPH has shared guidance for Phase 1 reopening and for LBoH on their roles during Phase 1 of the reopening. Betsy reviewed how these points will apply in Heath including occupancy of buildings, outdoor spaces, Town meetings and elections, library use. Betsy noted that the Select Board asked if BoH would send information to department heads on the new guidance for Phase 1 and also work with Town Clerk on safety for elections. BoH reviewed the required protocol and check list for reopening and discussed opening of Town Hall, Police and Fire Dept. Discussed training of employees and if BoH would like to do the training.
Susan made a motion that the BoH waits to see if the Select Board requests BoH help in the training.
Seconded by Henry.
Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Kovacs-Aye
- **Elections and Absentee Ballots:** reviewed and discussed ideas for how to make in-person voting safer: distancing measures, cleaning between voters, gloves, restroom use and availability, shields for workers at tables.
- **Town Meeting:** Reviewed discussions at previous meetings and noted other towns are holding town meetings in parking lots or football fields. Heath could use Fair Grounds, possibly with a tent. Select Board had voiced concerns about having outside will still not be 100% safe and also difficulty of walking for some at the Fairgrounds. Based on work done by Select Board it was determined that the meeting will not fit into 18 Jacobs Road while meeting social distancing requirements.

Ken Rocke thanked the Board for all their time and effort to keep Heathans safe. E noted his concern that even if all the measures are in place, he feels there is no way to mitigate all the risk and he would like to recommend not holding Town meeting right away and to wait until it is safer.

BoH discussed what to do next in regards to a recommendation to SB. Susan noted she was not in favor of, that there are too many risks and she feels there is going to be a resurgence after this first phase of reopening. Henry agreed, feeling it would be better to postpone and not expose to more risk. John and Armand feel similarly and said that if Town can postpone it should.

Susan made a motion that we recommend Town pass on having an ATM and STM until we can clarify the safety of Heath's residents.

Seconded by Henry.

Brief discussion on if we could ever really clarify or confirm safety.

Betsy made an amendment to the motion to be that the BoH advise the Select Board to postpone making a decision on setting the dates for the ATM and STM for up to four weeks from tonight.

Henry seconded the amendment.

Vote on amending the motion: Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Kovacs-Aye

No further discussion on motion.

Vote on motion: Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Kovacs-Aye

2. Mosquito Control District/Eastern Equine Encephalitis: Betsy reviewed Carolyn Ness's request for the BoH to write a letter to the Mosquito Control District in support of the PVMCD doing trapping and monitoring as soon as possible even if we aren't yet a member.

Susan made a motion the BoH write a letter supporting the PVMCD to start testing and trapping in the Town of Heath. Seconded by Henry

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

3. COVID- 19 issues:

- Noted that the Heath Fair has been canceled for this year, and that all summer rentals at the Fair grounds are canceled
- Nurse update- Betsy spoke with Claire who will be ordering more flu vaccine for the fall and additional syringes.
- 911- reviewed the draft reverse call created by John. All looked good
- Hot Spot signs- reviewed current wording and discussed amending.

John made a motion to amend the signs located at 18 Jacobs Road by removing the words "stay in your car" but to keep maintain distance.

Seconded by Henry.

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

Motion to **adjourn** at 12:42 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