

Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2020

By conference call

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk.

ABSENT: Henry Godek, Randy Crochier-FRCOG Health Agent, Gene Garland, ex officio Board of Health member

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

1. Betsy **called the meeting to order** at 5:00 pm

2. a. Reviewed the **minutes**.

Susan made a motion to accept the minutes of April 15 & 22, May 6 & 13 as written and May 4 & 20 as amended. Seconded by John.

Gruen -Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette – Aye, Kovacs -Aye

b. Reviewed **the notes** from May 27, 2020 and June 3, 2020. As these are not formal minutes no vote was taken. Notes will be appended to this meeting's minutes.

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

From the MDPH meeting: noted that vaccinations for children have declined and the need to spread the word to parents to continue with vaccinating children.

Trapping and testing for mosquitos will begin on June 15 through the PVMCD. Betsy attended a webinar on Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)and noted a tool kit that will be available to LBoH with public education materials

EMT meeting this week discussed that this week's 911 call be the last as no new information needs to be shared. Reviewed topics for week's **reverse 911 call:** masks for library book pick up, safe socializing, 'dusk to dawn' with mosquito season, tick prevention efforts.

Betsy noted she sent the letter of support for the Municipal Vulnerability Plan to Town Coordinator as requested and discussed at our June 3 conference call. Susan made a motion to send letter of support to MVP. Seconded by Armand.

Gruen -Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette – Aye, Kovacs -Aye

4. **Clerk Report:** Mary noted that the computer program used for BoH records and TOP program has more glitches making the issuing of permits difficult and noted BoH will need to figure out how to fix as

it is not an issue she has knowledge on. Betsy suggested talking to Town Coordinator and seeing if the issue can be addressed with the computer upgrade taking place in the next few months.

5. **Budget:** Reviewed bills. John made a motion for to reimburse Susan for \$62.91 for the headlamp for BoH Expense. Seconded by Armand. Palmer- Aye, Clavette – Aye, Kovacs -Aye, Gruen - Abstained

Briefly reviewed the concerns for FY21 budget season; Betsy noted she wrote to Finance Committee and the issues was noted at recent Select Board (SB) meeting

6. **Nurse update:** Reviewed the discussion from SB meeting on reducing Town Nurse hours. Discussed concern over reducing hours when COVID-19 may make Nurse in higher demand for residents and concerns over how decisions about the Nurse are made, who over sees nurse and associated decisions. Betsy and Susan will follow up with Claire to better understand reasoning. Issue will be discussed further at next SB meeting.

7. **Health Agent Updates:** Randy is not here tonight.

Betsy reviewed the latest information she had regarding **3 Ledge Road** and the discussions she has had with Randy. The deadline for the current Order was last week, June 3, 2020. Offices the owner needs to reach to make progress on housing are still closed with COVID-19 restrictions. Randy advises to give owner until August 15, 2020 to vacate and secure the property. If it is not vacated by August 15 issue will go to Housing Court. A Vacate and Secure Order removes the occupants without condemning the house therefor leaving some value to house. Randy advises the effective date of the Order to be June 15, 2020.

John made a motion to give notice to Cheryl Woodard, owner of 3 Ledge Road, that she needs to Vacate and Secure the property by August 15, 2020.

Seconded by Armand.

Discussion of other options and history of property. Reviewed dogs and dog related issues at property. Discussed process for issuing a Vacate and Secure Order.

Palmer- Aye, Clavette – Aye, Kovacs -Aye, Gruen - Abstained

Betsy will let Randy know the BoH decision and have Randy prepare the Order.

4 Apache: briefly reviewed ongoing situation with multiple issues for both BoH and Building Inspector. Lisa Danek-Burke was sending owner a cease and desist order. No further update.

621 Route 8A: the holding tank was pumped, discussed next step. Mary will ask property owner for an update for July BoH meeting on use of camper as occupant was to move out, but with pandemic all moving plans are on hold.

8. Reviewed **next meeting dates** noting keeping a weekly Wednesday meeting at 5:00pm through the next regular BoH monthly meeting set for July 1, 2020.

Next meetings will be June 17, 24, and July 1, 2020 at 5:00pm.

John made a motion to adjourn at 5:52 pm. Seconded by Susan.

Gruen -Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette – Aye, Kovacs -Aye

Minutes for this meeting were prepared by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk

Attachments: May 27, 2020 and June 3, 2020 notes

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting NOTES
May 27, 2020**

By conference call

Inasmuch as the call-in numbers were changed and posted on the Town website only and not in hard copy on the bulletin board of the Town Hall, this meeting was not an official meeting of the Heath Board of Health.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Randy Crochier-FRCOG Health Agent, Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk, Gene Garland, ex officio Board of Health member , Jenny Hamilton – President Mohawk Homeowners Association.

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

A motion was made by Henry to call the meeting to order at 5:04m; seconded by Armand. Betsy Kovacs. Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Kovacs-Aye

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

From the MDPH meeting:

- Noted that the Chief of Police for the State of MA was on the MDPH this week and offered the support of all police for Boards of Health. No one should ever feel threatened. Call for help.
- Betsy also noted information was shared on elections and that if a person refuses to wear a mask, they can be asked to leave the polling place. Briefly discussed LBoH role on election day. Betsy believes, according to the literature she has read, local boards of health are responsible for ensuring that infection control procedures are being followed on site. Henry reviewed on the web the MAHB of May 16 advised early involvement in a plan to help determine safety but it was not an order. Betsy seeking further clarification from MAHB counsel and FRCOG.
- Reviewed the Heath Town Hall has until July 1 to return to 25 % occupancy.
- Tag sales are not allowed under the reopening orders. It was noted that a weekend long tag sale was held over the weekend on Route 8A. Mary will get address to Randy for follow-up as it appears all tents and tables are still there with a 'closed' sign.

From the EMT meeting:

- Betsy reviewed the discussion concerning Mohawk Estate's opening over the Memorial Day weekend and adherence to Phase 1 reopening standards. Based on concerns expressed to her over the weekend, Betsy asked the Select Board for permission to query Town Council about guidance and extent of BoH authority. Response from Town Counsel distributed to BoH members and attached to these minutes.

Jenny Hamilton spoke to the use of the facilities and explained procedures which were followed. Jenny and Armand stated that there were fewer people than in the past on Memorial Day weekend and that almost all adhered to Governor's Orders and Advisories.

Following discussion, Betsy said the goal is to continue cooperation between ME and BoH for the protection, safety and health of all the people. BoH will follow Town Counsel's guidance.

The BoH, during the EMT meeting held prior to the BoH meeting, asked Jenny to provide a copy of the Reopening Plan which Jenny agreed to do.

2. Library reopening: Don Purington contacted Betsy to discuss the library's reopening plan for curbside pickup. Betsy reviewed the details of the plan with the BoH. BoH members noted concerns over the sanitation of the books between patrons; Betsy will follow up with Don informing him of the BoH's recommendations.

3. COVID- 19 issues:

- 911- reviewed ideas for the draft reverse call. Include information prohibiting tag sales and urging people to continue to Stay Safe at Home so we can get to Phase II.

4. Budget and expense: Reviewed the expenditure Susan had made for a headlamp for the BoH tool bag. Expense was not covered by COVID-19. Betsy made a motion to reimburse Susan for the cost of the headlamp, approximately \$65, from the BoH Expense line item. Seconded by John.

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

Betsy briefly noted her conversation with SB about BoH expense line and if it could be reduced in FY21 budget. BoH feels it should not be reduced as future costs are unknown for notices we may need to publish and for mosquito control district.

Next meeting will be BoH regular monthly meeting, June 3, 2020 at 5:00pm

Motion to **adjourn** at 5:44 pm made by Susan; seconded by Henry. 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

Attachments: Town Council email of May 27, 2020

Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting NOTES
June 3, 2020

By conference call

Due to an internet access error, the host of this meeting was not able to initiate the meeting at the posted ZOOM conference numbers. Alternate call-in numbers were used. As the meeting site was changed and not able to be posted, this meeting was not an official meeting of the Heath Board of Health.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Randy Crochier-FRCOG Health Agent, Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk, Gene Garland, ex officio Board of Health member , Jenny Hamilton – President Mohawk Homeowners Association, Don Purington- Heath Library Director.

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

Betsy noted that this will not be an official meeting of the Board of Health due to the issues with internet. The meeting served to report information only.

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

From the MDPH meeting:

- Noted that Phase II guidance of the Reopening Plan is available; playgrounds are in Phase II.
- This week's EDS meeting discussed plans for a Fall drive-thru flu clinic.
- MAPHCO is lobbying for free flu vaccine for the Fall. MAPHCO discussions covered testing seasonal farm workers and planning for social distancing. Henry noted Heath's local blueberry farms do not start harvest until mid-July. He agreed to speak with farms to work with them to comply with Reopening Guidance.
- Betsy noted she will send the letter of support for the Municipal Vulnerability Plan to Town Coordinator as requested.
- Trapping and testing for mosquitos will begin on June 15 through the PVMCD. BoH members noted EEE season and flyers should be put up again to inform residents. Randy will check if signs are available from FRCOG. Mary will dig out last year's information to repost.

2. Clerk Report: Mary noted that an update to the phone system accidentally deleted all stored greetings and messages. There may have been a few days without a formal BoH greeting message and some unretrieved messages may have been lost.

3. Budget: Bills will need to be approved at next meeting. Briefly discussed concerns for FY21 budget season and if BoH expense line item will be enough: EEE expenses, tick testing costs, COVID-19 expenses and potential COVID vaccine expenses, flu clinics, expenses incurred for pursuing dilapidated houses.

Betsy noted COVID-19 related expenses are covered under the CARES Act.

3. Nurse update: All seems to be fine.

4. Health Agent Updates:

- 3 Ledge Road: No change. Offices owner needs to reach are still closed with COVID-19 restrictions. BoH options for property are still the same from do nothing to condemn. Noted that as this is not an official meeting, BoH will have to decide next steps on current Order at next official meeting.
- 4 Apache: ongoing situation with multiple issues for both BoH and Building Inspector. Lisa Danek-Burke sending owner a cease and desist order this coming week. The septic system is currently exposed and the housing upgrades require permit.
- 621 Route 8A holding tank was pumped.

5. Library reopening: 5:49 pm

Briefly reviewed library reopening plan. BoH members noted concerns and Don clarified a few points including staffing, self-monitoring for illness, adults only to come to window on ramp, not using gloves, seven-day hold time between recirculation due to books having plastic covers and caution. BoH thanked Don for all work done to create plan and to serve the Town.

6. **Town Elections:** BoH members expressed concerns after reviewing Town election plan: further define wellness screen, masks must be worn, what happens to ballots and equipment at end of election, what happens to ballots of 'sick' individual on that day, toilets.

Betsy asked Randy to clarify what job the BoH should have regarding election. Randy noted the BoH is responsible for public safety so if there are questions about the plan they should be asked. There is no requirement for the BoH to be at election, any enforcement actions would be complaint driven.

7. Jenny Hamilton was asked to give an update on **Mohawk Estates reopening**. Jenny noted the beach permit was issued as the water tests were good. Spacing on beach is to be 12 feet between 'families' and dock and picnic tables are not being used. Showers, pavilion, playground continue to be closed.

8. Reviewed wording for this week's **reverse 911 call**: no tag sales, masks for library book pick up, safe socializing, 'dusk to dawn' with mosquito season, tick prevention efforts.

9. Reviewed **next week's meeting date** which will be today's agenda covered again: June 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm via Free conference call.

Noted posting a weekly Wednesday meeting at 5:00pm through July 1, 2020

Ended this conference call at 6:38 pm

Notes for this call prepared by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk