

**Town of Heath - Board of Health (BoH)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 12, 2020**

1. The teleconference meeting was **called to order** at 5:01 pm.

**Roll Call: PRESENT:** Betsy Kovacs, Susan Gruen, Henry Godek, John Palmer, Armand Clavette.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mary Sumner—BoH Clerk; Randy Crochier—FRCOG Health Director; Jenny Hamilton—President, Mohawk Estates

**Absent:** Gene Garland

2. **Reviewed agenda.**

3. **BoH Appointments:** Betsy thanked all for coming to the meeting and noted that the final appointments for Board of Health Members has been completed: Henry Godek and Betsy Kovacs have both been reappointed for 3-year terms. We need to elect a Chairperson. Betsy asked for **nominations**.

John Palmer nominated Betsy Kovacs; Seconded by Susan Gruen.

Henry called for a vote to elect Betsy as Chair for the Board of Health.

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

Betsy Kovacs is elected as the Chair of the BoH.

4. Reviewed **minutes** of June 10, 2020 meeting; motion by John to accept minutes as presented, seconded by Armand; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Abstained as he was not at that meeting.

Reviewed **minutes** of July 9, 2020 meeting; motion by Susan to accept minutes as presented, seconded by Armand; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Abstained, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Abstained.

5. **Chairman's Update:** Betsy briefly noted information from recent meetings:

MDPH: noted an uptick in Covid cases in eastern MA has led to changes in the rules for gatherings, including private gatherings. Mechanisms have been put into place for individuals to file a complaint (an on line form) and follow-up steps are in place.

EMT: has not resumed meeting.

MAPHCO: has been providing good messaging that we are posting at Town Hall and on website.

EDS: reviewed the date for the outdoor flu clinic drill on September 26 at the Charlemont Fairgrounds and indoors at 18 J on October 3. Susan noted a few high points for the drill: set up of five stations for traffic control, forms and information to help better identify individuals, about 200 people expected.

PVMCD: Betsy noted the recent human case of EEE in Hamden County. So far, all Heath's mosquito tests have been negative. Ariel spraying is occurring out East due to the severity of the outbreak. BoH will do a ROBO call with an update about mosquito situation and also reminder about masks and new travel and gathering restrictions for Covid.

Farm stand: Betsy noted that she has been in touch with the new farm stand in town to advise them that if they add certain products such as meat products to their offerings, they will need a permit.

**6. Budget:** Betsy reviewed the FY21 expense line item has been increased by \$1000 to cover mosquito Control District fee. Mary noted the recent bills submitted for payment for FRGOG and MAHB dues. All is in order.

## **7. Business:**

**Health Agent Update:** Randy reviewed the status and next steps for **3 Ledge Road**. The current Order to Vacate is for Saturday August 15, 2020. Randy will visit the property on Tuesday August 18, 2020 to see if the owners have complied or vacated. Randy noted he called Paul Hoffman at MDPH for guidance concerning evictions during Covid. The Order to Vacate is valid as the BoH is not a landlord, so this is not an eviction.

BoH asked next steps if not vacated on Tuesday. If not vacated, Randy will contact Housing Court to set a court date (virtual with Covid) for a court issued date to leave. He will wait till end of August to give possible buyer time to go to contract. If the owners do not leave or comply with the Court Order, they would be in contempt of court.

**Covid-19 Issues:** Susan brought up her concerns that there are Town employees who are not wearing masks while working, including the highway workers and they do not always maintain six feet of distance. Armand noted that citizens continue to enter PO without masks. Noted many people seem to feel that no mask is needed on Town Common. Brief discussion of options. Betsy will write a letter to the Select Board asking them to remind Town employees to wear masks.

**Historical Society dinner:** Betsy has advised Ned Wolf of the new restrictions on gatherings and offered ways he can make sure they are followed.

**Reopening Town Offices:** Under the new regulations the Town Offices could be reopened. Betsy has sent numerous letters to the Select Board on this issue.

Betsy also noted her concern that a Select Board member referred to complaint(s) about the BoH and/or a member of the BoH at the ATM and at the most recent Select Board meeting. The Select Board member did not specify the nature of the complaint or against whom the complaint was made. The member said at the Select Board meeting that the SB needs to meet with Betsy Kovacs. In discussions between Robyn Provost, Chairman SB and Betsy, Robyn said that the BoH will be invited to a SB meeting to discuss this topic and clarify that concerns about the BoH will be brought first to BoH not to SB. Betsy asked all to make sure to attend the SB meeting once we know date and time.

**Reverse 911 system renewal:** Our current three-year contract with OnSolve-CodeRED ends mid-October. Betsy asked each Board member to do research on alternatives to OnSolve-Code RED. Assignments were made for calling towns and providers. Mary will provide data for past use. The deadline for reviewing research and making a decision is September 2 at the next BoH monthly meeting.

## 8. Other Business:

Armand asked for an update on the camper located at **612 Route 8A**. Mary noted the email received in June from Julie Sidon, property owner, noting the owner of camper was still planning to move, but with Covid it was still not safe. Armand noted his frustration and concern over letting this continue without any follow-up. The By-Laws state October is when you need to be out of your camper, and in Mohawk Estates property owners leave, he noted. He wants this regulation to be equitably upheld throughout Town. Jenny Hamilton noted there are camper trailers in ME with septic and wells who are not allowed to stay year-round and that BoH is setting a precedent. Betsy noted the concerns and we will discuss at our next regular BoH meeting

Jenny Hamilton asked for guidance on how the MEPOA can hold their annual meeting on September 5 with the current Covid restrictions. Betsy noted non-governmental organizations are limited to gatherings of no more than 50 people outside. It was decided that Betsy and Jenny will call MDPH together on a conference call to work through the restrictions and clarify the regulations with the State.

Susan made a motion to **adjourn** at 6:06pm; seconded by Henry.

Gruen: Aye, Palmer: Aye, Godek: Aye, Clavette: Aye, Kovacs: Aye

**Meeting Adjourned** at 6:06 pm

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