

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2018**

PRESENT: Betsy Kovacs, Susan Gruen, Henry Godek, Armand Clavette

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Sumner BoH Clerk, John Palmer, BoH member-elect

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

Andrea Crete FRCOG Health Director was on speaker phone for the meeting.

Armand Clavette joined the meeting at 4:40 pm; John Palmer joined the meeting at 5:03 pm.

Meeting was **called to order** at 4:11 pm.

Reviewed agenda: in old business changed '5:00 update' from 5 ledges to 15 Ledges; added 37 Shawnee to ongoing or suspended.

2. M/S/C to accept November 1, 2018 and November 5, 2018 **minutes** as presented.

3. **Chairman's Report:** Betsy reviewed the Oversight Board annual meeting as meaningful get-together. Brief update on status of FRCOG helping Town of Greenfield with health agent duties, is not moving forward at this point. Next oversight board meeting is December 27. She encouraged all BoH members to attend these meetings at FRCOG.

4. **Clerk report:** Mary will begin researching CODE RED alternatives.

5. **Budget:** all is in order.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Nominations for BoH:** Betsy reported that John Palmer has agreed to be on the Board; he will fill Tucker Jenkins' term. John will join the meeting around 5:00 tonight.
2. Reviewed the **Nurses report.** Susan conducted Claire's annual review. Briefly discussed the recent car accident on Dell Road and the need to debrief/follow-up with all people involved in a situation like that, especially citizens. Susan also noted there is a need for CPR training for citizens; Susan has posted several signup sheets to gauge interest on CPR training.
3. **Heath Director Enforcement Issues:**
229 South Road: Andrea followed up with property owner; no formal complaint was ever made by tenant so Andrea will not pursue further.
Andrea reported that she will be conducting inspections of **Food Permits** in Heath on December 27.
4. **3 Ledges:** Betsy reviewed latest communications from property owner and from The Housing Authority. Wetlands need to be delineated before a perc test can be done; the cost of this will be covered by the loan. Waiting for spring at this point.

4:40 pm Armand Clavette joined the meeting.

5. **5 Ledges (Town-owned property):** No update: Mary was not clear about the letter to be sent. BoH will send letter one of the form letters.
6. **15 Ledges (Danek property):** Letter one of the form letters was sent asking property owner to come at 5:00pm to tonight's meeting. Have not heard from owner, and owner never came. M/S/C to send second form letter. Will also send photos of remaining debris to be removed.
7. **594 Route 8A:** Andrea followed up with Building Inspector (Jim Hawkins) and confirmed this is a zoning issue. Armand has been by the camper site and it did not appear to have been shoveled out.
8. **612 Route 8A:** Reviewed decision made at Nov. 5 meeting. Armand expressed concern over septic in winter. Betsy will write to owners to formally let them know the decision; she had called them after the meeting.
9. Enforcement of Town Bylaws regarding **unregistered vehicles:** Susan had several questions about defining abandoned and unregistered cars, storage containers and semi-trailers, and how do we determine what is or was a farm vehicle. Brief discussion of where we are in the survey process. Mary will compile all survey data and BoH will forward data onto BoS and Police dept. for enforcement.

Henry reported that while doing the survey he noted a refrigerator on Hosmer road with the doors still on. Betsy will write to owner expressing concern for safety.

Also discussed 51 Colrain Stage Road – a semi-trailer was noted in their yard; in conversation the owner requested information on regulations for trailers; they were referred to the Bylaws and noted that they cannot be used for storage nor can semis be kept on property.

Briefly discussed the TOP program and Betsy's letter to BoS expressing BoH concern over doing away with program. Andrea noted that Housing Code covers dilapidated trailers even without a TOP program; under the Housing Code the board can enforce having a junk trailer removed as a danger or a nuisance.

- a. **38 Bray Road:** Betsy recused herself and Henry chaired. Reviewed letter sent to owners concerning unregistered vehicles; letter was sent both regular mail and certified, they never picked up the certified letter. A drive-by inspection noted no change in cars or trailers located on property. Mary found the old photos from 2015 and the complaint received at that time. Discussion. M/S/C to write to BoS and Hawkins explaining situation and pass further follow-up on these issue to them.

John Palmer joined the meeting at 5:03 pm. Betsy introduced John and thanked him for agreeing to join the Board.

- b. **71 Sodoga:** Reviewed issues. No change. Have not heard back from owner on TOP or from Hawkins following up on semi-tractor. Mary will follow up on both. Will forward unregistered cars to BoS/police with others.

- c. **4 Apache (Mohawk Estates lot 6):** reviewed that the semi-trailer had been forwarded to Hawkins who noted that the truck is still attached to the trailer so it is not technically a violation. BoH will forward complaint on to BoS/Police.
10. Finished the review and discussed use of **form letters**. BoH will use letters and timeline unless a situation requires direct follow up.
11. **On Going or Suspended:**
- a. **444 Route 8A:** January 1, 2019 deadline- no update.
 - b. **434 Route 8A:** BoH will check in with them in the spring.
 - c. **25 West Branch Road:** Complainant would like a formal response from Board. Betsy to draft for Mary to send.
 - d. **52 Avery Brook:** Property has been listed for sale. Betsy will follow up with realtor to be sure need for final cleanup is planned.
 - e. **Taylor Brook Road:** Failed septic; repair process is still moving forward.
 - f. **Abandoned Houses Tool Kit:** This will be kept on the agenda for when we feel as a Board that we can start working on this.
 - g. **181 South Road:** New septic at renovated house; they have three years to install.
 - h. **37 Shawnee:** Betsy tried to visit, but with the snow it is hard to visit site. Activity appears limited.

New Business:

- 1. **7 Flagg Hill Extension:** The BoH received an e-mail complaint about the condition of this property: junk and electronics in yard and by road side. Owner was invited to tonight's meeting to discuss. They couldn't make this meeting but would like to come and discuss property. Mary will ask them to come to next month's meeting or find a time that will work.
- 2. **21 Number 9 Road:** Reviewed request for Local Upgrade Approval. M/S/C to approve the plans with the use of a sieve analysis as a substitute for a perc test with Andrea Crete's review.
- 3. **210 Taylor Brook Road:** Owners had wanted to ask BoH to consider a variance for well location but have determined a location for well that meets all setback requirements, so no action needed.
- 4. **Green Burials:** Betsy received an inquiry about green burials and the requirement for an impermeable shroud, and if that requirement was necessary or could be amended. Briefly discussed the history of the Heath Town Bylaws regarding green burials; discussed why or why not have a shroud (diseases, cemetery locations, well locations); discussed shroud requirement makes a "green" burial not "green"; discussed proposing an amendment changing the requirement. M/S/C for the BoH to draft a proposal to the BoS that the Town Zoning Bylaws be revised by removing the requirement of a leak proof shroud from the green burial bylaw.
- 5. Mary briefly reviewed the **pumping reports and Title V reports** received and noted 25 Groll Road failed Title V.

6. Mary noted there have been several **phone calls and e-mails** asking for septic history on 3 Flagg Hill, as property may soon be sold.

Next BoH Meeting: Discussed keeping meeting times as the second Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 9, 2019 beginning at 4:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 pm

Submitted by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk