

Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2020

PRESENT: Betsy Kovacs- Chairman, Susan Gruen, John Palmer, Armand Clavette

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk, Randy Crochier- FRCOG Health Agent, Cheryl Woodard and Richard Thayer joined the meeting at 3:42pm

ABSENT: Henry Godek, Gene Garland: Ex officio BoH member

Hearing and meeting **called to order** by Betsy Kovacs at 3:30pm

Betsy noted that today's hearing was to determine what action to take regarding the Order of Notice to Correct issued for **3 Ledge Road**. The owners were not present yet, but the understanding is they are planning to be here. Randy noted he had met with owners just prior to this meeting and explained the purpose of the hearing to them. Randy also wanted to inform the Board of one option he had not mentioned at its last meeting in February: a "No Occupancy Agreement". In a no occupancy agreement the Board and parties involved agree to not occupy the property after the hearing or a set date. This agreement is slightly different then the 'Vacate and Secure' option as the property does not need to be secured at the first-floor level (boarding windows/doors) so that cost for material is not incurred by the property owner. Vacancy is enforced by the BoH with the Health Agent.

As property owners were still not present, Board moved on to next item in agenda to give them time to appear.

Reviewed the **minutes** of February 5, 2020. Motion made to accept the minutes as amended: fix the wording to reflect remote participation of Henry.

Chairman's Report: Update joining the **Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD)**: there was an informational meeting on February 25 with the Select Board, went well, Carolyn Schorrs-Ness spoke and answered questions. Most there seemed in support. There are still questions regarding funding which Betsy followed up on. If the Town gives a token amount of funding, the Town will be eligible for services. Betsy will update the flyer and we will post information around town prior to the Special Town Meeting.

At 3:42 pm Cheryl Woodard and Richard Thayer joined the meeting.

Hearing on 3 Ledge Road Notice to Correct: Betsy asked for an update on the property. Cheryl noted that her relator called to let her know a bid for buying the property is being written up for her review. She is also working on financing for a new house. She has not had any news on an available apartment.

Randy reviewed the hearing has options from doing nothing to condemning the house. As Armand was not been at last meeting Betsy asked Randy to review the seven options available for the Board to consider:

1. Do nothing
2. Extend current order
3. Take to Housing Court
4. Begin issuing violations
5. Hold a hearing to vacate and secure
6. Hold a hearing to condemn
7. Issue a no occupancy agreement

Betsy asked if the Board members and the owners understood the options before beginning a discussion.

John noted that extending the current order for a short period of time or issuing an order to vacate in 30 days made the most sense as they have been making progress on selling the property and finding new place.

Susan noted that based on hearing Cheryl's update and timeline she felt extending the Current order for 60 days was compassionate.

Armand agreed extending the order made sense, but that there needs to be a time limit. He stated that the Board has already given several extensions on other issues, but that as it is still winter, extending till spring made sense.

Betsy also said she is ok with extending, and offered extending to the date of the May 6 BoH meeting, and to add conditions of updates given by owner every two weeks and that BoH will not ask owner for the updates. The owner needs to provide them using own initiative.

Discussion of timing and updates. Noted we as a Board need an update at a minimum at the April BoH meeting.

John Palmer made a motion to grant an extension of the current order till May 6, 2020 BoH meeting with the conditions that the owner provide an update to Randy every two weeks and they also attend the April 1, 2020 BoH meeting to provide an update and the May 6, 2020 BoH meeting. Seconded by Armand. Unanimous in favor.

Betsy thanked everyone for their work on this issue. Cheryl and Richard noted the difficulty of the situation and confusing process. Betsy noted that the BoH is concerned for the safety of them and any one who would need to enter the house to assist them, and for near by properties. Board noted the barn roof has fallen in and asked about the power source for the barn. Richard stated the barn power has been disconnected.

Board thanked them for coming.

Cheryl and Richard left the meeting at 3:58pm.

Randy will write a letter to property owners stating Board's decision. He will also keep Mary informed on owners' updates and she will keep Board informed.

Returned to agenda: **Chairman's report: Mosquito District.**

At the Select Board meeting Carolyn noted funding options and possible 'bridge funding' and recommended writing legislators to request and support. Discussed funding options. M/S/C to send a letter to legislators requesting support for funding for mosquito districts. Betsy will ask Carolyn for wording and draft.

Betsy reviewed **MAPHCO** (Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition). Every town but two in Franklin County belong to MAPHCO. It is a federal program that funds money to FRCOG for use for emergency planning and training, including the Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) drills and expenses. On March 2, MAPHCO held an EDS tabletop drill for all nine Franklin County Towns planning for a simulated flu pandemic.

Reviewed information and coordination of information through MAPHCO for **Corona virus/COVID-19**. Betsy has been meeting every Thursday with the Joint Information Systems subcommittee of MAPHCO to create common messaging for MAPHCO towns. Shelia will be the contact person as Betsy will be away the next two weeks.

Betsy noted the annual BoH report for the **Annual Town Report** has been drafted and will be sent out for BoH members to review.

Betsy also noted that as a Board we need to coordinate who will speak and what is being said to Select Board so correct information is given and duplicate reports aren't given.

Clerk report: Mary noted she mailed renewal notices to all current Temporary Occupancy Permit holders, and is reviewing records. Also noted a call she had from a permit holder noting the Mohawk Estates web page has a notice on it stating not to get a permit. Briefly discussed. Mary to issue and follow up on permits as done in the past. Reviewed the recent food permit applications for pancake breakfast using school kitchen, and Community Hall kitchen renewal. Also noted the website training she attended for the new Town web page.

Budget: Reviewed recent expenditures, Mary noted all is in order.

Susan reviewed **Nurse's report and** her contact with Claire around the Coronavirus. Susan has also been in contact with the Hawlemont school nurse. Betsy noted she has reached out to Town Coordinator for clarification on who oversees nurse budget, bills, pay slips and appointment. Believes as a board we should reclarify the process.

Business:

Health Agent report:

Randy noted it has been a quiet month. Noted few new perc applications on FRCOG site: 25 West Branch Road, Hosmer Road, 23 Colrain Stage Road. Randy also noted he has been notifying the Conservation Commission of perc test dates/locations so they have the information.

594 Route 8A. Randy is still evaluating property for sewer complaint and occupancy of camper trailer. A citizen has asked Mary for an update. Mary will connect the citizen and Randy so the information the citizen has can be shared directly with Randy.

612 Route 8A - Randy went to camper yesterday and left his business card in the door. Property owner has not been responding to calls. Discussed the difficulty in reaching concerned parties and the lack of response to messages. Randy noted that as a Board we have the same type of options as we had just discussed for 3 Ledge Road, this is a housing code violation. M/S/C to write to property owners repeating the request of November, and that, due to no response to Randy's calls and failure to respond to request by Health Agent to have an appointment to inspect camper a hearing on the property will be held on April 1, 2020 in conjunction with the BoH meeting.

Mary noted a **phone call** she had requesting dates of smoking 21 regulation in Heath. Randy noted changes in the smoking laws and vaping concerns.

M/S/C to **adjourn** at 4:55pm

Next meeting date: April 1, 2020 at 4:30pm

Minutes written by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk