

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2020**

PRESENT on Conference Call: Betsy Kovacs, Armand Clavette, Susan Gruen, John Palmer; Gene Garland

ALSO PRESENT: Randy Crochier-FRCOG Health Director; Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk

ABSENT: Henry Godek

Presiding: Betsy Kovacs, Chairman

Meeting was **called to order** at 5:30pm by Betsy Kovacs.

Betsy noted she called this meeting for several reasons:

- For BoH members to become familiar with using a conference call meeting format
- To bring BoH members up to date on latest Covid 19 developments in Heath, in State, and at Federal level
- To review the Emergency Management Team (EMT)
- Review any needs in Town

Betsy reviewed latest developments:

- Board of Selectmen have declared a state of emergency for Town not due to a change in status of Covid-19 (there are no known cases) but for the ease of operations and moving money should that be needed.
- MAPHCO (hopefully) has money coming that FRCOG will try to access for BoH / Town to cover any Covid-19 costs. The EMT is creating a list of anticipated needed supplies. The existing list Susan created to restock the emergency supplies stored at the school building will be added to the list as well.
- At the State level schools have been closed; daycare centers closed except for health care workers. Malls and stores are closed or closing.

Betsy reviewed the structure of the EMT. Tim Lively is the Director and Shelia Litchfield is Assistant Director. As this is a health crisis BoH is the lead Town department, and BoS is on EMT as well. The EMT met this past Monday and determined steps for Heath to take. Those included the closing of Town buildings and offices to the public. Post office and transfer station will have regular hours but people are to distance.

A Continuity of Operational Plans (COOP) is being created which involves all department heads.

Betsy noted our BoH list of citizens who may need assistance and asked that we all call our list of individuals to check on needs. Noted that schools and churches are getting food out to those in need.

Betsy asked Randy to give an update on his FRCOG duties. He noted he is still able to conduct percs and Title V's but has told engineers this could change at any moment. He is not conducting hygiene or food related inspections. Susan noted that she had spoken to both the Air BnB and the Bed and Breakfast in town and neither was planning to open/have guests.

Randy reviewed the Orders to Correct the BoH has been dealing with. We will still keep working with property owners, but we should not have any hearings for the moment, or invite any owners to meetings. Properties we were going to invite to April or May meetings are on hold.

Betsy also noted the March 24 Special Town Meeting has been postponed till April 14 so the vote on joining the mosquito district is postponed as well.

Betsy asked if there were any other Covid-19 related concerns. Susan asked about people leaving the cities or more populated areas to come live in their campers in Heath. Several homeowners in Heath have come to their seasonal houses and with the weather getting warmer concern over people trying to live in campers. Discussion of density of campers at Mohawk Estates (M.E.), the opening date for the dumping station, water source and beach and community areas, septic systems and wells in M.E.

Board asked Randy to draft a letter listing our concerns and to notify Mohawk Estates Association that there may be a delay in when they will be allowed to open the community areas and waste station. Betsy asked Randy will reach out to Lisa White, FRCOG nurse, for further advice and guidance. Armand agreed that giving ME notice about possible need to delay opening was good but noted you can not stop people from coming to their property as they own the land.

Briefly discussed if BoH should do a reverse 911 call educate about social distancing. As there is no state mandated quarantine and every news outlet is noting social distancing, general feeling was to not make a call. Susan agreed to draft a shot message to have at the ready in case the situation changes. Message would include social distancing, self-care, and if returning to Heath please quarantine.

Our next meeting will be by conference call or ZOOM. No date was set but all were advised to watch for email notification.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:08pm

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