

**Town of Heath - Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
September 3, 2020**

**Present:** Betsy Kovacs, Henry Godek, Susan Gruen, Armand Clavette, John Palmer and Randy Crochier.

Chairman Kovacs called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

The Board of Health joined the Select Board meeting to discuss several items of joint Boards' concern. Minutes of the Select board meeting for this date are attached.

**Board of Health (BoH) Appointment:** Provost explained the delay in making BoH member appointments.

**COVID-19 Update:** Massachusetts rates remain fairly stable. Heath still has no confirmed cases. It is important to maintain proper prevention at all times. In-person gatherings are limited to 25 people inside and 50 people outside, even for private events.

**Mask Order:** On August 20th the BoH passed an order requiring that face coverings be worn in all Town buildings. As with all businesses, the Town of Heath is required to ensure that the rule is followed on and in its properties by everyone including staff. Enforcement is done by education and persuasion by any member of the BoH or their agent. Enforcement by the Board of Health is done only when it receives a complaint. Highway, Police and Fire Department personnel are to wear masks when they are inside a building as well as all other Town staff.

**Reopening buildings:** The State guidelines for reopening are to be followed for reopening Town buildings.

**Back to School Plans:** Robyn reported that there is not yet much information and no definite plan from MTRSD for remote learning. Rowe school will be in-person. FCTS will begin the year with a hybrid model. BoH will be involved in decisions about learning centers in Heath.

**3 Ledges Road:** Betsy reported that the BoH members are trying to be humane in balancing health and safety of the Town and individuals who live close by with that of the homeowners. The present condition of the house poses a threat to the center of town and its inhabitants. BoH issued an Order to Vacate with a deadline of two weeks ago. It was not followed. On September 8 th there will be a court date in which the BoH is asking for enforcement of the order. Randy Crochier will represent the Town in court. When the residents vacate, the house is to remain empty, boarded up with the electricity shut off. The current owner would retain ownership of the property.

**Flu Clinics:** The Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site will hold two flu vaccination clinics this fall. September 26, 9:00—11:00, will be a drive-thru clinic at the Charlemont Fairgrounds. This is a drill for a future coronavirus vaccine clinic. The second flu clinic will be on Oct. 3 as a walk-in clinic at the 18 Jacobs Road building. Sept. 24 will be a dry-run rehearsal to work out glitches ahead of the drive-thru clinic. There will also be an area flu clinic at Mohawk High School on Oct. 17.

**SB/BoH Relations:** Robyn stated that the Board's policy for any concerns, complaints or suggestions was for an individual to go directly to the specific group. If the BoH or any other group requests help from the Board, it would be given but that the person needed to go directly to the committee or Board with complaints. It was suggested that the BoH meet periodically with the Board to keep updated about situations that were being dealt with. DeBries asked the BoH to send the written policy that the BoH had for addressing complaints to the Board.

**Role of Town Coordinator and Input to Decision-Making with BoH:** Bets sked that comments from Select Board about pending issues for BoH be given to BoH in advance of their meetings. Continued discussion tabled due to lack of time. Randy Crochier stated that a round table discussion for COVID coordination would begin on Monday

Minutes written by Mary Sumner.

Attachment: Selectboard approved minutes for September 3, 2020