

**Town of Heath - Board of Health (BoH)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 7, 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 , Barbara Gordon.

**ABSENT:** Gene Garland-Ex Eficio BoH member

2. **Reviewed agenda.** Added entering into an Executive Session.

3. Reviewed **minutes** of September 2, 2020 meeting; motion by Susan to accept minutes as presented; seconded by John; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye.

Reviewed **minutes** of September 3, 2020 meeting; motion by Armand to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Henry; Kovacs-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Aye, Palmer- Aye.

Reviewed **minutes** of September 21, 2020; motion by Henry to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Armand; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Abstained (not at the meeting), Godek-Aye.

Reviewed **minutes** of September 25, 2020; motion by Henry to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Susan. Kovacs-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Aye, Palmer- Aye

4. **Chairman's Update:** Betsy reviewed the information from recent FRCOG Roundtable on Covid-19 and noted she found this meeting to be very informative to learn what other towns are doing. Cases of Covid are going up in the State of MA. These roundtable meetings will be held every other week and are a great way for towns to connect and have messaging for their communities be consistent.

Betsy noted that 3 Ledge Road appears to be empty and the boarding up and securing of the property will happen soon. Brian DeVries is managing the boarding process. Susan noted it had not been done as of yet. Betsy confirmed that the cost of the boarding up will be paid for by the Town and then be placed as a lien against the property.

Betsy tabled updating the BoH on Town Council's opinion on Mohawk Estates as the Planning Board has not had a discussion with Jenny Hamilton and Betsy feels that discussion should happen first. Betsy will update BoH at next meeting if PB has had a discussion with Jenny.

Betsy reviewed the two recent flu clinics and noted that they were successful with far greater numbers of vaccines given. BoH members also shared what they felt were strengths and weaknesses at the clinics. Several comments were made noting not feeling as safe at the indoor clinic, but as the weather gets colder outdoor clinics will not be possible. Betsy asked everyone to send their comments, both good and bad, to Sheila and Lisa so they can be addressed in follow-up meetings and planning.

5. **Clerk update:** Mary noted her work this past month on printing flu clinic forms, filing and mailing 3 Ledge paperwork, recreational and beach annual reports work, and the continued increase in septic related records

request. She noted she had not ordered the Whittemore Sign yet, but will finish up the wording review with Randy.

**6. Budget:** Mary reviewed recent bills including expenses for mailing certified letters concerning 3 Ledge Road. Betsy had paid for several of the postage bills and will need to be reimbursed. Armand made a motion the BoH reimburse Betsy for the expense of the mailings to 3 ledge Road, seconded by Henry.

Henry asked if this mailing cost would also become a lien on the property. Randy said it would not.

Kovacs-Abstained, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Aye, Palmer- Aye

### **Old Business:**

**1. Nurse Update:** Susan has been in contact with Claire and all seems well. There was not a finished Nurse report for September to review. Susan noted Claire had been away part of September and Victoria Burrington covered office hours. A BoH member noted a concern for the proposed learning hub use of bathroom while nurse office hours are in use and a plan has been put in place.

### **2. Health Agent Update:**

**4 Apache Drive:** Part of septic and lot are still dug up. Randy spoke with Building Inspector who believes the issues here are not zoning related. Randy will visit the property to assess the work being done and determine the next steps.

**612 Route 8A:** Randy has not been able to connect with either the property owner or the camper tenant. Discussed how to move issue forward and the need to include both the property owner and the camper tenant in the conversation and correspondence. The general consensus of the Board is that this property issue has dragged on long enough and we need to have a conversation with all parties.

Susan made a motion to send a certified letter to the owner of 612 Route 8A requesting they come to a hearing to discuss the issues at the next BoH meeting, November 4, 2020. Seconded by Armand.

Kovacs-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Aye, Palmer- Aye

Mary will draft letters for review by Randy and Betsy and get them out asap.

**Local Upgrade Approvals (LUA).** Randy noted that in the past as a Board we have approved and also delegated approval of LUAs. Briefly reviewed the regulation and any concerns. Having Randy approve the LUAs streamlines the timeline as we do not have to wait for a BoH meeting.

Motion by Henry that the BoH designate the CPHS Health agent(s) to be our agent and to approve any LUA; seconded by Armand.

Kovacs-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Aye, Palmer- Aye

### **3. Covid-19 Issues:**

Betsy noted a complaint received concerning the **mask signage** at the Town Hall. As not everyone was able to view the email that had been sent, Mary read the complaint letter out loud. Discussed and reviewed how the bold sign came to be. Noted that individuals still do not wear masks. Armand noted he forgot his mask the other morning and the sign was a good reminder for him to go back to car and get it. BoH feels sign is good.

Susan noted we should write to the complainant explaining the situation. Betsy will do so.

**Halloween:** Betsy noted that at the Covid round-table many towns expressed the same concerns over Halloween and messaging. Randy noted the messaging they are working on and the basic safety ideas being included. The general consensus is to not ban Halloween as that might cause people to hold private parties of large gatherings possibly indoors, but rather to offer sound guidance and alternative ideas. Reviewed the few past practices held in Heath (trick or treat map and school hosted party). Betsy will follow-up with the organizers of past years' events to get a sense of what they may be planning for this year and will forward messaging and guidelines on to them.

As both Randy and Jenny needed to leave at 6:00 pm, Betsy asked Jenny to please share her update.

Jenny noted that ME will not be holding their annual Halloween party that usually occurs on Columbus Day weekend. Also wanted to let the BoH know that the water and bathrooms are being left open until November 1, 2020 which is later than usual. Several residents have noted they need to quarantine at their properties for 14 days before they can return to their winter home, and to be able to do this they would need water and facilities. ME also is having more work done on dam and would need to bring in a portapotty for workers and felt having facilities open was easier and safer. Jenny further noted volunteers are helping to close up camps for individuals who either do not feel safe traveling or would be traveling from 'unsafe' states. ME is working very hard on keeping everyone safe.

Randy and Jenny left the meeting at 6:00 pm.

#### **New Business:**

**1. Safety issues in Town buildings:** Susan reviewed that about five weeks ago she and Robin Provost-Carlson toured the Community Hall where Susan pointed out her concerns. When she worked with others to clean the Community Hall for the possible learning hub more concerns were noted and reported. Susan also noted the Fire Marshal inspection and concerns listed in that report. BoH members had received and reviewed the report sent just prior to this meeting. Discussed that many items may fall under the custodian's domain, but the BoH will review to make sure items are addressed. Susan noted her disappointment that items cleaned from the Community Hall that were good, but no longer needed, were left out as "free", but done so on the Veterans Memorial. Items should have been brought to the Free Shed, but no one was sure the shed is actually open again. Most items are gone, but feels a better plan for cleaning needs to be in place.

**Pumping reports, well reports etc.** Mary had prepared and emailed to BoH members a list summarizing all permits and follow-up over the past few months. No concerns were noted, but all appreciated the list as a good way to keep up to date on these permits especially doing phone meetings.

Mail, email, phone: Mary noted four properties that have been brought to the BoH's attention in the past several weeks. All concern individuals staying on the properties without proper facilities or permitting. Mary has been gathering information on property owners and situations.

Henry made a motion for information on these concerns/complaints for these properties to be given to Randy for him to review and investigate. Seconded by Susan.

Kovacs-Aye, Clavette-Aye, Gruen-Aye. Godek-Aye, Palmer- Aye

**On Going or Suspended:** No updates given.

**Public Comment:** None

**Next meeting date** was set for November 4, 2020 at 5:00 pm by audioconference call.

Betsy asked members of the general public to leave the meeting as the BoH was entering into an **Executive Session**.

Betsy called an Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec 21(a)(3) to review and approve minutes of prior meetings with respect to litigation, Heath Board of Health v. Cheryl Woodard, Housing Court Department CA No. 20CV474. at 6:11pm

The BoH entered into Executive Session at 6:11pm.

The BoH reconvened at 6:21pm.

Susan made a motion to **adjourn** at 6:22pm; seconded by Henry.

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

**Meeting Adjourned** at 6:22 pm

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