

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2020**

I. The teleconference meeting was **called to order** at 5:01 pm.

Roll Call:

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

ABSENT: Gene Garland Ex Officio BoH member, Mary Sumner-BoH Clerk

Also PRESENT: Randy Crochier, Health Agent; Barbara Gordon

II. **Reviewed agenda.** Betsy wishes to add discussion about Wi-Fi at community center.

III. **Minutes of meeting of 7 October, 2020, approved:** Randy Crochier suggested we show time at which we went into executive session. Susan moved to accept meeting minutes as amended; seconded by Henry. Passed unanimously.

IV. Chairman's Report:

A. Betsy asked if there were any questions regarding recent Mass Department of Public Health guidelines plus three new orders by Governor. Betsy sent all to SB and to Robyn Provost, Chairman Select Board in particular to stress need to wear masks at all times. She expressed the hope that new guidelines would help stem the infection.

MAPHCO: Pushing for a Regional emergency preparedness group that is more integrated. FRCOG meets every other Monday with Phoebe Walker.

Betsy talked about Reverse-911 re: Thanksgiving. Would like to have a Reverse 911 every week till Thanksgiving and asked for any information/advice from BoH members. Susan asked if we are discouraging visits from out of state. Betsy said we are discouraging any non-household gatherings.

B. Revolving Fund update: Betsy asked members if we knew what the revolving fund for the BoH is. Speculation ensued. Betsy said that she had just found out that the revolving fund is from the revenue stream created from temporary occupancy permitting, with money to be spent on "clean-up" up to \$5000. Betsy reported that Hilma Sumner says that the money can be used for any "clean up" in town. Betsy said that this radically increases our ability to do work in the town. Will return to discuss issue in December.

V. Old Business:

1. HEARING: 612 Route 8A Temporary Occupancy Permit: BoH meeting suspended at 5:18 for a hearing to take information on reissuing Temporary Occupancy Permit (TOP) for a trailer at 612 8A. Owner of property Julie Sidon received certified/return receipt letter and Mary also sent it by email. Owner of 612 8A are not present at the hearing nor is the occupant of the trailer. Betsy asked whether there were any statements of fact regarding the trailer, said Randy had stopped trying to visit trailer. 5:21: Betsy moved to close the hearing; Roll call vote: Susan – aye; John – aye, Armand -aye, Henry – aye; Betsy – aye; passed unanimously.

Susan moved that we do not offer an extension of the TOP. Armand seconded. Armand compared the situation to similar situations in Mohawk Estates and urged that we not set a precedent for those in town. Motion assumes that owners of 612 8A applied for an extension of TOP. Motion passed unanimously. Betsy indicated that we will need to verify with Mary about whether they did apply. Mary will send letter denying extension and send a letter stating violation owing to occupancy of trailer

2. 3 Ledge Road update: Invoice for boarding up of property about \$700. All fees attendant to cost of condemning building will come from BoH revolving fund and boarding costs will be a lien on property. Betsy expressed reservations about taking money from the revolving fund as it does not seem to qualify as "clean up."

***Julie Sidon on phone at 5:28. She explained that she has been having trouble with her phone for some time and is calling on her cell phone. Betsy explained that we have already held the hearing and that Julie should have acted accordingly, knowing the problem with her phone. Betsy asked whether the BoH would be willing to listen to her for three minutes. BoH agreed to hear Julie. Randy Crochier arrived at 5:31. Lost phone contact with Julie Sidon. ***

3. Regional Health Agent update:

a. 4 Apache Drive: Randy has found no one present and will write a letter to owner. Armand indicated that he thought that without pushing from Randy, nothing will happen.

Susan: asked about the dilapidated barn at 3 Ledge Road. Randy said we should have required them to secure the barn as well, but we didn't. Randy received an estimate of about \$1500 to drop the barn in place; \$6200 to remove everything. Betsy requested that Randy put in writing for her to forward to attorney asking how we can ensure that the barn is not a hazard to the community.

b. Number 9 Road lot across from 136: Randy has not visited the site.

4. Nurse's report: Claire has been gone for two and a half weeks. Vicky Burrington filled in. Claire said Wi-Fi in community center not working and, according to Hilma, was too expensive to fix and that it was necessary to wait for town Wi-Fi. Susan wants to know why this was not dealt with or reported to BS or to us. Susan notified Sheila Litchfield.

Betsy informed Randy of BoH's earlier decision re: 612 8A.

VI. Other issues:

Barbara Gordon asked regarding Reverse-911 calls: are they effective? Are they reaching people? Barbara G has requested four times and not been able to get calls. Betsy doubts it is possible to determine whether Reverse-911 works as intended without surveying. Betsy, Susan, Henry, John receive calls; Armand has not received them. Susan was interested in knowing how many people are signed up for calls. Barbara returned to issue of Wi-Fi for Claire: Doug Mason has offered equipment to extend Wi-Fi to community hall. Betsy said that it is her understanding that those who are doing IT upgrade are the only ones who can fix it but is concerned that Claire isn't getting Wi-Fi and should have it.

Randy on FRCOG: In October traced 68 people. About 20% of cases followed have been active with multiple contacts. Concerned especially with younger people who are gathering. Susan: was Phoebe's last letter confusing? Betsy: she confused Heath and Monroe and corrected the mistake.

Betsy wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. Next BoH meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2 at 5:00 pm.

20 Judd Road has a Title V inspection scheduled.

Motion by Susan to **adjourn** meeting at 5:54 pm. Seconded by Armand.

Roll call vote: Susan – aye; John – aye, Armand -aye, Henry – aye; Betsy – aye.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes for this meeting written by John Palmer, Kindly Amanuensis

Amendments to minutes made by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk