

Town of Heath - Board of Health (BoH)
Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2020

1. The Zoom meeting was **called to order** at 5:00 pm.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Randy Crochier—FRCOG Health Director, Mary Sumner—BoH Clerk, Barbara Gordon, Julie Sidon, Craig Gerry.

ABSENT: Gene Garland-Ex Eficio BoH member

2. **Reviewed agenda.** No changes noted.

3. Reviewed **minutes** of November 20, 2020 meeting; motion by Susan to accept minutes as presented; seconded by John; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Clavette-muted on Zoom vote could not be heard.

4. **Chairman's Update:** Betsy reviewed recent information from MDPH on COVID-19 noting the changes in quarantine time. BoH members reviewed quarantine guidance with Randy who noted the understanding of the virus keeps updating so the rules change to reflect that new information. Cases of COVID-19 continue to go up in the State of MA.

EDS: Betsy thanked everyone again for the work on the drills and feels we are well prepared for a COVID-19 vaccine; Betsy noted it will depend on which vaccine we receive as there are several types all requiring different handling.

Revolving fund: nothing new to report.

5. **Clerk update:** Mary reviewed her work this past month noting permits applications have slowed down.

6. **Budget:** Mary reviewed recent bills and expenses. All was in order.

At 5:33 Julie Sidon and Craig Gerry joined the meeting.

Betsy suspended the regular BoH meeting and called the **hearing on 612 Route 8A Order**.

Betsy reviewed that the hearing was requested by Julie and this was an opportunity for Julie to tell the BoH why it should not move forward with the recent Order to Vacate issued for the camper trailer located on her property.

Julie began by stating because of the phone issues she had at the previous meeting she did not feel that she had a hearing. Betsy noted the hearing was held at the announced time and that phone issues might have been anticipated. The BoH then issued an Order to Vacate. Today's hearing is to allow them to speak to the issue and asked that we all move forward.

Julie noted her concerns that since nothing in the living situation has changed since the BoH first approved the occupancy extension that she feels the BoH thinking must have changed and her alarm at being issued a 24-hour eviction of an elderly man during COVID-19.

Julie further noted a lot has been made about an inspection of the camper and that the camper was never inspected for the first permit. All the improvements asked for by the Health Director at that time were done: smoke detectors, hand washing, water source, trash storage. They have followed up on all requests of the BoH including the tank pumping. Julie asked to read her letter from 2018 to the BoH as the situation is exactly the same noting again no changes in the living situation.

Julie asked for clarification of the wording in the Order. Betsy noted again this hearing was not a discussion, but clarified that failure to comply with the Order to Vacate could result in the BoH needing to pursue further actions which are listed in the Order.

Julie expressed her concern over COVID-19 and asked BoH to reconsider or extend till a time in the Spring when it is safer for a move.

Betsy thanked them for coming. Julie and Craig left the Zoom meeting.

Betsy closed the hearing and reconvened the regular BoH meeting at 6:03 pm

Old Business:

3 Ledge Road update: Betsy reviewed that dealing with the barn located on the 3 Ledge property (but not included in the Condemnation Order) is a Select Board concern and is being handled by the Building Inspector and the Select Board. Betsy forwarded to the SB quotes Randy had received for demolition and removal. At this point the SB is waiting for the deadline given by Building Inspector to the owner to demolish. After that time, the SB plans to demolish and remove the debris.

Health Agent Update:

Randy reviewed his work on food permits and temporary lodgings noting December is the annual renewal period. He updates Board on FRCOG's continued work on COVID-19 related issues.

He had no new updates on the properties he has been following noting his intention to visit several of them this week when he is in Heath. Mary had a few address and ownership updates that she will forward on to Randy through email.

612 Route 8A: Betsy asked for a motion so we could begin discussion.

Susan made a motion that we move forward with enforcement of the Order to Vacate the person living in the property for the safety reasons. Seconded by Henry.

Susan noted her understanding of how difficult and painful the situation is but feels if the BoH cannot go in to assess the living conditions we cannot deem it safe and therefore allow TOP to continue.

Armand expressed concern over the message this sends and the precedent this sets for all of Town temporary occupancy situations.

John asked for clarification on how this Order differs from the 3 Ledges Order noting 3 Ledges has a list of violations to address, but he sees none listed for the camper at 612 Rt 8A. Randy clarified that the camper is enforced under a different section of the housing code basically for not meeting code standards of water and septic. This is a violation of TOP regulations.

Betsy suggested that the deadline for the Order to Vacate be extended to a time when there is likely to be a Covid-19 vaccine available for the occupant, the weather will be warmer for moving and to reduce the stress of moving in the winter with Covid infection possible.

Betsy called for a vote on the motion before the Board.

Roll call vote asking for those in favor of the motion. No one spoke.

Roll call vote asking for those against this motion: Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Clavette-Aye.

Motion was defeated.

A new motion was made by Betsy to extend the TOP variance until one month after a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available in our area for individuals over 65 years of age or until June 1, 2020 whichever comes first. Seconded by John. No discussion.

Roll call vote: Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Clavette-Aye.

Betsy and Randy will write a letter to inform the property owner and tenant of the BoH decision. Mary will email property owner of the decision after the meeting this evening as BoH recognized the stress this situation was causing them. Mary will note full details will be in a forthcoming letter.

Covid-19 Issues:

1. Review of Jon Diamond's proposal: the proposal has been sent to BoH members for review, but as it came so late to the Board we cannot decide or vote on it tonight. Randy still needs to review further and he and Betsy will discuss with Jonathan. Randy noted his concern about multiple varied and often simultaneous uses at 18 J. Briefly discussed the 18 Jacobs Road use and noted changes in COVID rules might change what is allowed.
2. Betsy noted a concern she received over congestion in the hallway at the Sawyer Hall. Betsy noted she will let SB know they should review and tighten up the procedures for closed Town buildings.

Nurse Update: Susan continues to stay in contact with Claire and all seems well. No change from the last BoH meeting.

Pumping reports, well reports etc. There were very few new applications, a few of the previously reported Title V's had resulted in repairs.

Public Comment: None

Next meeting date was set for January 6, 2021 at 5:00 pm by audioconference/Zoom call.

With no other business before the Board, Betsy wished everyone a Happy Holiday season and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Susan made a motion to **adjourn** at 6:52pm; seconded by Henry.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:52 pm

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