

Town of Heath - Board of Health (BoH)
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2021

1. The Zoom meeting was **called to order** at 12:01 pm.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Gene Garland-Ex Eficio BoH member, Randy Crochier—FRCOG Regional Health Agent , Mary Sumner—BoH Clerk, Barbara Gordon, Pam Porter.

ABSENT: John Palmer.

2. **Reviewed agenda.** Added 3 Ledge review and review vaccine recipient letter.

Betsy thanked BoH members for attending the meeting and reviewed the main reason for the meeting was to review the uses of 18 Jacobs Road and decide on Jonathan Diamond's proposal. She would also like to review the Health Agent's list of properties as he was not able to attend our recent monthly BoH meeting.

Old Business:

1. **18 Jacobs Road uses:** Betsy reviewed the documents she had sent to all BoH members prior to today's meeting: Robyn Provost's Select Board letter to employees explaining the procedures and policies for closing the second floor of Sawyer Hall, and the possible use of 18 Jacob's Road for office space; Mary's response to that letter noting BoH clerk's needs; and a letter Betsy drafted as the BoH response to these items.

Susan made a motion that the BoH address Robyn's proposal to temporarily close the second floor of Sawyer Hall. Seconded by Henry.

Henry asked if we were voting to approve the draft response Betsy had sent to all for consideration prior to meeting. Betsy noted the BoH had not been asked to opine on the proposal, but wanted the BoH to have an option to.

Henry amended the motion by adding: sending the draft memo as a response to the SB proposal. Seconded by Susan.

As Betsy had included a comment by Randy Crochier in her memo, she asked Randy to weigh in on his thoughts. Brief discussion of Sawyer Hall congestion and use of various entries. Betsy will add this concern to the memo.

Roll call vote on amending the motion: Susan- Aye, Henry - Aye, Armand -Aye, Betsy -Aye.

Susan noted an email she had sent to SB asking that SB query employees about working from home and coordinating hours. She said she did not get a response and did not think that had been done.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote on amended motion: Susan- Aye, Henry - Aye, Armand -Aye, Betsy -Aye.

Betsy will send the memo directly to SB as amended.

2. **Jonathan Diamond's Hilltop Youth proposal:** Armand made a motion the BoH deny the proposal. Seconded by Susan.

Discussion: Susan noted her concern over the number of people being added to the use of 18 Jacobs Road, the continuing increase in COVID cases, and her belief that we should wait till Spring when kids can be outside.

Randy noted without knowing the number of employees moving to 18 J, we cannot make a decision about the program.

Roll call vote: Susan- Aye, Henry - Aye, Armand -Aye, Betsy -Aye.

3. Vaccine approval: Betsy reviewed plans for the Hawlemont and other Franklin County EDSs for distributing the vaccine under Phase III. Claire Rabbitt, Town Nurse, asked the Select Board to sign a form for Heath to be a recipient of vaccine. The Sel Bd asked the BoH to review Claire's request and give an opinion on it. Betsy explained that it is highly unlikely that Claire will receive the vaccine directly. Vaccine will be sent to the Hawlemont EDS in Rowe where there is adequate refrigeration. Arrangements will be made to get vaccine from Rowe to Claire to distribute to shut ins.

Betsy made a motion the BoH move this process ahead by telling the Select Board that they should sign the vaccine form. Seconded by Henry. Roll call vote: Susan- Aye, Henry - Aye, Armand -Aye, Betsy -Aye.

4. 3 Ledge update: Carson Ovitt emptied a dumpster worth of household trash from the shed before he could demolish. Although it does not seem that any vermin control was professionally done, no vermin were seen in the trash removed. Susan will keep an eye out for an uptick in any vermin either at her house, or in Center. Betsy noted BoH members could comment in the Public Comment time at the SB meeting as to their concerns over the extermination not being done. Betsy noted her appreciation of the fast response of the Select Board to demolishing the barn and removing the debris.

5. Health Agent updates: Randy has not been to any of the properties on the list. He noted 20 Judd Road has been sold and he will inform new owners of the standing Order to Correct. He also briefly reviewed the shifting of duties among CPHS to allow Lisa White to focus her work on the COVID vaccine roll out.

Public Comment: Pam Porter asked about a 'house' located at the corner of Stone Hill Road and Number Nine Road, that is falling in. She noted that the bathroom is visible from the street as is most of the rest of the inside. BoH members were unaware of this property and asked Randy to check on it to see if it is a BoH or Building Inspector issue.

Next meeting date was reviewed as February 3, 2021 at 5:00pm by audioconference/Zoom call.

With no other business before the Board, Betsy made a motion to **adjourn** at 12:43pm; seconded by Henry.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 12:43 pm

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

Attachments:

Robyn Provost's Select Board letter to employees

Mary's response to that letter noting BoH clerk's needs

Email and letter Betsy drafted as the BoH response to these items.