

Town of Heath - Board of Health (BoH)
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021

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 (joined meeting at 5:08pm), Gene Garland-Ex Efficio.

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Sumner—BoH Clerk, Randy Crochier—FRCOG Regional Health Agent, Barbara Gordon

2. **Reviewed agenda.** Added review Select Board response to BoH letter about building use.

3. Reviewed **minutes** of February 3, 2021 meeting; motion by Henry to accept as presented; seconded by John; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye.

Reviewed **minutes** of February 8, 2021 meeting; motion by John to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Henry; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Gruen - Abstained (not at 2/8 meeting), Godek-Aye.

Armand Clavette joined the meeting.

4. **Chairman's Update:** Betsy reviewed recent information from:

- o MAPHCO (emergency preparations group) Betsy reviewed the bi-weekly Covid roundtable meetings and said information and sharing are useful. State and FRCOG created process for homebound individuals to get vaccinated. Betsy made a motion that the BoH accept the FRCOG offer for Regional Nurse Lisa White to provide this service; seconded by John.

Discussed number of individuals in Heath that are homebound; Susan reviewed the numerous challenges that face all our elders in getting the vaccine including limited computer access, travel issues and fear of scams. Reviewed coordinating with Claire Rabbit to keep her in the loop. Reviewed that 86 individuals in Heath have gotten the vaccine and two individuals appear to qualify for this homebound service.

With no further information to review, a vote was called. Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Clavette-Aye, Godek-Aye, Gruen -Aye but noting she wants to coordinate with Claire before initiating.

Susan noted the ongoing difficulty for Franklin County get sufficient vaccine supply. Similar concerns also noted by Randy and BoH members who have been volunteering at clinics. Betsy asked for recommendation or action the BoH could take. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that writing a letter to our State representatives would be helpful.

Betsy made a motion the BoH send a letter to our representatives, copying local individuals (Tracy Rogers, Randy, FRCOG) asking for more vaccine availability. Seconded by Henry.

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

John agreed to draft the letter.

5. Clerk Report: Mary reviewed her work on sending TOP renewal applications out. She reported that the Whittemore drinking water warning sign is in and she will work on getting it installed once the snow melts. She reviewed work on writing annual report for Town.

6. Budget: Mary noted all is in order. Fourth quarter FRCOG bill was submitted for payment. FY22 budget request has been submitted.

Revolving Fund Guidelines: Betsy briefly reviewed the guidelines discussion from previous meeting and the edits that were added. BoH members had received the new draft prior to tonight's meeting for review.

Henry made a motion the we approve the "Board of Health Revolving Fund Expenditures Guidelines" as presented; seconded by John.

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

7. Old Business

1. **Nurse Update:** Susan reported all seems to be OK; vaccine issues had been discussed in Chairman's report.
2. **3 Ledge Road:** Betsy reported that a realtor working on the behalf of the property owner, Cheryl Woodard, had contacted the BoH to gain access to review the property. Betsy met with realtor and had local police present to assist with entry. She also required a letter from owner giving permission to the realtor for entry and to take documents from the premises. No contact from anyone since that date.

Betsy reported that KPLaw advises the BoH not release Executive session minutes yet as case is still pending.

3. **Health Agent Update:** Randy noted his work at vaccine clinics. With caseloads decreasing, he is catching up on housing and food inspections. Reviewed the SAPHE grant that will provide funding for local boards of health to enhance their skills, and delivery of service to the public. Phoebe Walker has been instrumental in gaining this legislation and funding. Randy reported that with the Covid pandemic, a few new towns have contacted CPHS/FRCOG to add nursing services for their towns and CPHS may need to hire another nurse.
4. **612 Route 8A:** Betsy reviewed the Board's decision to require pumping the holding tank for the camper. Mary has not heard from owner, but with weather warming, she will send a reminder. Discussed where this situation is at with the Order to Vacate. Susan suggested we write a letter reminding them that the deadline to vacate was coming up. Discussed that even though the BoH noted vacating after vaccine became available, that actually getting a vaccine has proved more difficult than expected. Mary will send copies of the most recent Order and the pumping request to BoH members for review so we are better able to discuss at next meeting.

5. Covid related concerns:

- o Betsy noted recent reverse 911 calls and feels no need for one this week. If information becomes available, we can do one as needed.
- o Betsy reviewed the discussions that have occurred at recent Select Board meeting regarding the January 12, 2021 email letter the BoH sent to the SB concerning the SB decision to close Sawyer Hall

second floor and temporarily offer office space for town employees who work there at 18 Jacobs Road to help alleviate congestion and Covid concerns. Betsy reported that some of the SB members said the BoH should not have sent its letter as the SB did not ask for an opinion. She reported that Brian DeVries had drafted a response to the BoH letter for review by the SB, but it has been tabled several times and added to the following SB agenda for several weeks. Betsy reviewed that several discussions have happened at the SB meetings which she summarized noting the response letter has been reviewed, edited to be shorter and more to the point, and also apparently sent to Town Counsel for review. A final response letter was approved at last night's SB meeting to be sent to the BoH. BoH has not seen the letter yet though Betsy had asked that it be sent in time for tonight's meeting. Betsy asked Mary to send the letter to BoH if she receives it. Mary asked about the BoH vote in the fall to not micromanage the buildings, but to offer advice on Town buildings if asked for. Betsy commented that she feels nothing in the BoH letter sent to the SB was telling the SB how to proceed, but was offering its opinion and expert guidance.

Betsy proposed requesting open meeting records from the SB in regards to this issue.

Henry made a motion to request all communication between SB and Town Counsel and also ask for a copy of the draft version of Brian's letter. Seconded by Armand.

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

6. New Business:

- Property on corner of **Number Nine and Stone Hill**: reviewed the citizens concern brought to BoH on condition of the structure. This is an old school house and is owned by the adjacent property owner. Randy reviewed his drive-by visit and advises it is not a BoH concern as no one is living in the structure, it has been there for many years without causing harm. Concerns about it should be brought to the SB or Building Inspector for follow-up. Susan noted there is some previous history with this property and thinks it was to be cleaned up at some point. Betsy asked Mary to let the complainant know BoH finding and to recommend they bring issue to SB or Building Inspector.
- Betsy reviewed upcoming legislation the BoH may want to consider supporting, **House Docket No. 10 amendment to Chapter 32 Sec. 3**. Randy could not speak to supporting or not supporting the bill as he would be a beneficiary of it, but he gave a brief description of the amendment reclassifying the retirement group public health workers fall into to have the retirement benefits better reflect to category of work they do and conditions they face daily in their jobs.

Motion by Henry that the BoH send a letter of support for this bill to representatives; seconded by Susan.

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

Mary will edit the draft letter BoH had received as guidance and send out.

- Betsy noted the Heath Ag Society had a meeting discussing this years Fair. As no one had gone to the meeting or knew if a vote was taken, it was hard to discuss a plan or concerns. Betsy will try to find out if a decision was made and we will discuss once we know.

7. Reviewed the **septic and well permit** report Mary had sent to all prior to meeting (report attached to minutes). No discussion.

On a somber note, BoH discussed it has been a year since the Covid – 19 pandemic began and how much has changed and the work done.

Next meeting will be on April 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Motion to adjourn at 6:01pm by Susan; seconded by Henry. All in favor!!

Minutes submitted by Mary Sumner

Attachments:

- Final Draft guidelines for revolving fund use
- Septic and well report