

Town of Heath - Board of Health (BoH)
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2021

1. The Zoom meeting was **called to order** at 5:07 pm.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Sumner—BoH Clerk, Randy Crochier—FRCOG Regional Health Agent , Barbara Gordon (joined at 5:18pm)

Absent: Gene Garland-Ex Eficio.

2. **Reviewed agenda.** Added review of Weaving Studio safety plan under Covid issues

3. Reviewed **minutes** of March 10, 2021 meeting; motion by Susan to accept as amended fixing spelling mistake; seconded by John; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Clavette-Aye.

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

- Bi-weekly Covid Round table meeting: noted these meetings are a very good discussion and provide information on vaccine distribution; reviewed local positive Covid cases are going up again; there are two cases currently in Heath that are being monitored through FRCOG. Susan noted that 106 citizens out of approximately 700 in Heath have gotten a vaccination; all of our seniors are now vaccinated.
- The “Forest Committee” of the MAPHCO/REPC is consolidating small vaccine clinics into larger regional ones. Randy noted the upcoming clinic to be held at Berkshire East will be a collaboration between FRCOG and our local EDS. FRCOG will handle the vaccinations and EDS will provide the greeters, monitors and traffic help. Betsy expressed concern about encouraging younger cohorts to get vaccinated. She asked for suggestions on reaching them. BoH members discussed how information on this upcoming clinic and future clinics should be advertised to the Heath community. With our senior citizens having completed vaccination it was general consensus that R-911 calls would not reach the younger population and information is on the web.
- MAPHCO (emergency preparations group) next meeting on Monday April 12; merging with REPC emergency responders will be discussed.
- Betsy continues to attend the two calls per week with the MDPH, noting information covered at this point is mostly at a State level.
- **BoH Appointments:** Betsy reviewed the two members whose terms will expire the end of June, Armand Clavette and John Palmer. The Select Board wants recommendations for appointments by mid-June for July 1 term start. Chair asked members to consider re-appointing Armand, who would like to be reappointed; and to consider appointing Gene Garland to replace John who is not seeking to be reappointed. Will discuss at next meeting. Henry thanked John for his service to the Board and Betsy pointed out the many ways he made valuable contributions.

Barbara Gordon joined the meeting at 5:18 pm.

5. Clerk Report: Mary reviewed she continues to work from home; noted work on TOP continues, there have been several requests for septic records with Spring weather.

6. Budget:

Revolving Fund Guidelines: Betsy briefly reviewed the guidelines that were approved at our previous meeting. The Select Board requested the guidelines be sent to them. Betsy noticed a sentence that needs clarification. BoH members reviewed her proposed wording.

Susan made a motion the we approve the wording clarification to 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.

FY 21 Budget: Mary noted bills paid this month and all is in order. Betsy reviewed expenses paid for issues at 3 Ledge Rd noting that we agreed that as we get closer to the end of this current fiscal year, we will consider covering them from the Revolving Fund.

FY22 Budget: Betsy commented on the new format that will be used for the budget at this year’s ATM which aggregates line items. This will allow authorized bodies to move funds from line to line without requiring Town vote. Betsy believes that since year to year comparisons will not be possible for this year’s budget presentation, it will likely be confusing for Town voters. She asked the BoH to be ready to assist in answering questions on the floor of the ATM regarding the BoH budget. Betsy reviewed the FRCOG increase with Randy noting his hope that the State Action for Public Health Excellence (**SAPHE**) grant will come through in May so the stipend increase of about 10% can be reduced.

Betsy asked Randy to explain the rationale for the increase and also the grant. Randy noted many of the grants FRCOG had for funding have ended and the new SAPHE Grant has not yet been awarded, therefor an increase in the assessment to all member towns was required. The FRCOG applied for a SAPHE grant of \$300,000 per year for 10 years. It is State funding to help strengthen local health programs and boards. FRGOC’s grant application focused on funding for expansion of the district, adding new Towns, purchasing new computer software to allow better access to files for BoHs and citizens, adding more nursing services, converting a part-time assistant position to full time, and securing a new administration position.

7. Old Business

- 1. Nurse Update:** Susan reported all seems to be OK; Claire still has appointments in person at community Hall as well as home visits. Noted the work Claire has done volunteering at numerous vaccination sites.
- 2. Health Agent Update:** Randy noted his hope that with Spring and dryer roads he can begin visiting some of the properties on his list. He has been attending T5’s and septic related work.
- 3. 612 Route 8A:** Betsy reviewed the delay on pumping the holding tank for the camper. Mary has not heard from owner. Reviewed where this situation is at with the Order to Vacate noting the June 1, 2021 deadline. Discussed possible next steps.

Betsy made a motion to have Randy and Mary send a letter, by mail and email, to the property owner and the tenant requesting the camper holding tank be pumped within two weeks from the receipt of the letter, and to cite the previous letter, noting the date and conditions; seconded by Henry.

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

4. **7 Flagg Hill Extension:** Randy will visit property soon and reach out to owner. He has not spoken to him since last Fall. Mary noted some older file information she came across that adds history to this site. Mary will forward to Randy for his review. At the May BoH meeting we will review what next steps should be based on current data.
5. **25 West Branch Road:** A septic design had been submitted in September 2020. Randy has been waiting for property owner to confirm the design; will reach out to property owner to get the ball rolling. Noted it has been two years since they moved into this house and this system needs to be addressed.
6. **Number Nine Road- camper trailer:** noted we had complaints on this situation last summer, individuals appeared to be staying in campers. Mary will send the property owner a TOP application and a copy of the TOP and camper regulations. If there are two campers that is a zoning issue and can be referred to Planning Board or Building Inspector. Randy or Lisa Danek-Burke will check.
7. **Camp site on Sumner Stetson Road:** concerns received last summer, hard to visit site and camping area cannot be seen from road, but from information in complaints it might not be camper but a seasonal dwelling that is being used. This appears to be a Building Inspector issue. On a motion by Henry, seconded by Armand, the BoH asked Mary to pass along information on this property to Jim Hawkins.

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

8. **Sadoga Road-Unit 17:** Randy reviewed this is a small cabin in the woods. Cannot confirm if someone is living there. It is not a BoH concern at this point.
9. **118 Rowe Road- camper:** reviewed that the concerns for this property brought to the BoH last summer appear to have been Covid related. The owner used to have a TOP which has expired. Mary sent a renewal application.

Betsy asked that we review the remaining properties on the ongoing/suspended list:

434 Route 8A: has done some work to make structure more secure.

3 Ledge Rd: no change.

20 Judd Road: has been sold, need to contact new owner. Will review at our May BoH meeting.

594 Route 8A: not update, but a white house trailer has been parked just off road for over a year. Randy will follow up on and information on that.

No updates on 4 Apache or West Brook trash issue.

10. Covid related concerns:

- o Reviewed and discussed the **Fireman's Drive Through Pancake Breakfast Application** noting possible conflict of two events (Jon Diamond's theater group and pancake drive through) at 18 Jacob's Road site at same time. While the BoH approved of the breakfast plan as presented, the members said it cannot occur if another event is taking place simultaneously at the building.

Henry made a motion that the BoH approve the Fireman's Pancake Breakfast contingent upon there being no simultaneous use of the building, such as Jonathan Diamond's theater, on that date.
Seconded by Armand.

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

- Betsy reviewed the draft response letter and the final **response letter from the Select Board** and the BoH public records request. Brief review of the issues, clarification about confusion over the two letters, and discussed next steps.

Henry requested the minutes reflect that that the Board of Health received complaints about the building and actions of Town Employees that were the impetus for sending the letter to the Select Board and that Board of Health was responding to those complaints.

- **Weaving Studio application:** BoH reviewed the safety protocol for the application for a weaving studio at Community Hall.

Henry made a motion that we approve the safety protocol as proposed.

Seconded by John.

Roll call vote: Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, **Gruen-Aye** Susan – Aye;; Godek-Aye, Clavette-Aye.

8. New Business:

Randy noted the BoH should discuss the State's offer to opt out of aerial spraying for mosquito control. The deadline for doing so is May 15th. Randy sent information to Betsy which she just received. She will review it with Carolyn Ness of the PVMCD to learn what needs to be done and connect with the Select Board if necessary. She will keep the BoH members informed.

9. Reviewed the **septic, Title V and well permit** applications. No discussion.

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

Motion to adjourn at 6:32 pm by Betsy; seconded by Henry. All in favor!!

Minutes submitted by Mary Sumner

Attachments:

- Final Amended Draft guidelines for revolving fund use
- Fireman's application
- Weaving Studio application