

Town of Heath - Board of Health (BoH)
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2021

1. The Zoom meeting was **called to order** at 5:02 pm.

Roll Call: PRESENT: Betsy Kovacs-Chair, Susan Gruen, Henry Godek, John Palmer, Armand Clavette, Gene Garland-Ex Eficio.

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

2. **Reviewed agenda.**

3. Reviewed **minutes** of April 7, 2021 meeting; motion by Henry to accept as amended, seconded by John; Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Clavette-Aye.

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

- Upcoming EDS Covid vaccination clinic planned for May 15 will be moved to June at a date to be determined, possibly June 6. Betsy noted the upcoming clinics need to be promoted. Susan reviewed the State's approval of vaccination of 12 years and effect on clinic participation. Betsy asked all to help promote clinics.
- MADPH, MAPHCO no new information to report.
- **BoH Appointments:** Betsy reviewed the discussion from last meeting: two members whose terms will expire the end of June, Armand Clavette and John Palmer; Armand would like to be reappointed; and to consider appointing Gene Garland to replace John who is not seeking to be reappointed. Henry made a motion that the BoH recommend to the Select Board that they reappoint Armand for a three-year term and appoint Gene to the BoH, seconded (heartily!!) by John.

Kovacs-Aye, Palmer- Aye, Gruen-Aye, Godek-Aye, Clavette-Abstained

Betsy will write to the Select Board letting them know of our recommendation.

5. **Clerk Report:** Mary reviewed recent work noting a few of the TOP issues recently followed up on; requests for septic records continues to be higher.

6. **Budget: FY 21 Budget:** Betsy and Mary noted all is in order.

FY22 Budget: Betsy reviewed the information she had sent to BoH members regarding FinCom's decision to not budget for its members' stipends. Other committees and boards may do the same. Betsy feels this may be discussed at ATM and wanted to ask BoH members thoughts or concerns, if any, about BoH member stipends. No one had any concerns or comments.

7. **Old Business:**

Nurse Update: Susan reported all seems to be OK and noted the work Claire continues to do volunteering at vaccination sites.

Randy Crochier joined the meeting.

1. **Health Agent Update:** Randy noted FRCOG was awarded the State Action for Public Health Excellence (SAPHE) grant and is planning how this grant funding will be allocated and hopes to see a reduction in Town assessments. Noted his work on researching the 'Opt Out of Aerial Spraying' for the mosquito program (Betsy noted this issue will be discussed in detail later on our agenda) . He has been attending numerous T5's and septic related work across the District.

Randy reviewed the properties he has been working on in Heath:

594 Route 8A: Randy was called to do a housing inspection for this property. He worked with Mary to obtain records on previous Orders and concerns before going to the property. Inspection showed several issues and Randy will issue a report. He feels this property will likely be condemned.

7 Flagg Hill Extension: Randy visited the property today; sees no change in condition of site since his previous visit. He plans to draft an Order to Correct and then plans to meet at the property with the property owner to set some goals for cleanup. Betsy asked if the Board should vote on issuing an Order; Randy is acting as an agent of the BoH so a vote is not required.

Randy reviewed a perc request in Mohawk Estates and his concern about conducting a perc test only to find it is a nonconforming lot for zoning. Randy is asking Building Commissioner to review lot to determine buildability before issuing a perc permit. Betsy noted the Zoning Bylaw change that is proposed on the ATM warrant allowing construction of 'tiny houses' and that we may be seeing more of this type of issue if the Zoning is updated.

2. **Update on Mosquito Control District:** Betsy and Randy reviewed the State's offer to opt out of ground and aerial spraying for mosquito control. The deadline for doing so is May 15th but this deadline may be pushed out as many towns are struggling to understand the pros and cons of making this decision and the need to have an alternative plan in place. Randy reviewed his calls at the State level, his conversations with other towns, and Betsy noted her discussions with Carolyn Ness from Pioneer Valley District. Reviewed what opting out means and no way to opt back in mid-season. Reviewed that as members of the District, the testing the Town of Heath does gives us information early in the season and offers ways to mitigate mosquitos before aerial spraying might be needed.

As more research and discussion are needed, Betsy asked that the BoH hold a special meeting to discuss this issue further and make a recommendation to the Select Board based on our findings. The Select Board is the authority that needs to vote on this issue. A meeting time was set for Monday May 10, 2021 at 11:00am. Betsy will keep the BoH members informed through email of information she receives so they can review it prior to this meeting.

3. **Potra-potty issue at Mohawk Estates:** Reviewed the complaints sent in to the BoH concerning use of porta-potty located by the Recreational Hall and ME well water by early season campers. Noted complaints were also sent to DEP. Porta-potty was permitted last Fall by BoH for workers to use while working on dam and community building during off season months. Randy did follow up and found water was not on. Armand noted porta-potty is now gone as specified as the permitted time ended. Reviewed the official opening date for ME. Briefly discussed early campers. There do not appear to be any waste issues. Betsy appreciated the work done on investigating the issues and feels this was a good discussion and review of the issues around seasonal use. No formal action by the BoH is needed.
4. **612 Route 8A:** Betsy reviewed history on pumping the holding tank for the camper. Mary sent 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 April 16th letter date. Letter to owner and response had been sent to BoH members for review. Property owner asked that due to the limited use of the camper over the winter months and the short elapse of time of the tenant leaving property that they wait to pump till May 31st. Brief discussion.

Henry made a motion that the property owner adhere to dates and timing noted in the contents of the letter; seconded by Susan.

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

Mary will write to the owner and tenant letting them know the Board's decision.

5. **25 West Branch Road:** Reviewed issue of the delay of property owner confirming the septic design; Randy has tried to reach the property owner to get the ball rolling but has not had any success. Reviewed that they had two years to address the repair and it has now been two years since they moved into this house. Randy will pursue and let BoH know if he needs Board to contact owner.
6. **20 Judd Road:** As the property has been sold, Randy has been trying to contact new owner to review the conditions of the Order to Correct for this property. He has not been able to reach owner. Mary will help research and get info to Randy.
7. **Covid related concerns:**
 - **Funeral in Heath Union Church:** Betsy will follow up with Deacons to review the latest Covid guidance from State on funerals prior to a funeral being held on Saturday of this week.
 - **D2R2 Bike event:** tentatively set for August; no known water stops listed for Heath so no concerns; Mary to respond.
8. **TOP issues:**

- o Mary reviewed the email conversation she had with Betsy (sent to all BoH members for review) about clarifying that the TOP program permits 'temporary dwellings' not just camper trailers. Mary felt that the discussion at last month's meeting seemed to indicate she was to only issue TOP's for camper trailers, however she wanted to have the Board review and weigh in on the permitting of temporary dwellings as specified in the BoH regulation. Reviewed the TOP regulation and zoning. Brief discussion. Randy noted that the Board needs to make sure it is a legal structure before they can issue a permit. If it is determined to be a legal structure and it is being occupied, then it should have a TOP.

Randy will follow up with Building Commissioner to review any properties of concern, specifically the structure at a camp site on Sumner Stetson Road.

- o 8 Swamp Road: Mary noted property owner had submitted an application requesting two permits, only has one lot. Reviewed the history of multiple campers on this lot. Mary will contact owner and advise that they can only have one camper. If the planning Board issued an exemption for this property, the property owner will need to provide information to BoH for review.
- o Henry noted that while reviewing the TOP Regulation in prep for this meeting Section V, 2.2 did not read clearly. Reviewed wording issue; brief discussion.

Henry made a motion the BoH amend the wording by striking the words " must be issued a Temporary Occupancy Permit." replacing them with "is not required to have a Temporary Occupancy Permit." Seconded by John.

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

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

10. **Mail and email**: covered under items above on agenda.

Next regular meeting will be on June 2, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Special meeting also set for May 10, 2021 at 11:00 am

Motion to adjourn at 6:16 pm by Armand; seconded by John. All in favor!!

Minutes submitted by Mary Sumner

Attachments:

- TOP Regulation, Zoning Bylaw section 4.10 Camping Trailers, TOP application form
- Emails on TOP question, stipends
- D2R2 letter
- Septic application report