

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021**

I. The teleconference meeting was **called to order** at 4:32 p.m.

Roll Call:

PRESENT: Betsy Kovacs (Chairman), Gene Garland, Henry Godek, Barbara Gordon, Susan Gruen, Randy Crochier (FRCOG), Kate Peppard (BoH Clerk)

III. Reviewed Minutes:

June 2, 2021: Henry moved to accept with typo corrections (page 3 – “should”); Susan seconded (with additional typos on page 3). Ayes: Henry, Betsy, Gene; Abstentions: Barbara, Susan, Randy

June 14, 2021: Gene moved to accept the minutes; Susan seconded. Ayes: Susan, Henry, Betsy

III. Chairman’s Report

- **Monthly Public Health Calls with FRCOG:** Nothing new to report.
- **Mission/Purpose of Heath Board of Health:** At Betsy’s request, the BoH members discussed their views about how the BoH is meeting its mission and purpose. Members said that the Select Board has not been seeking advice and counsel or asking for BoH representation at the meetings where items related to public health are being discussed and decisions made. Susan has observed numerous occasions where masks are not being worn in the Town buildings which the Select Board requires. Barbara noted that we need consistent applications of public health rules.
 - Susan noted that we should ask the Select Board to come to a BoH meeting to discuss our concerns. She wants the meeting to be in person.
 - Gene suggested that we might be able to do a presentation for the Select Board describing the BoH members’ experiences and skill sets so they will know what they have at their disposal.
 - Betsy asked that Gene outline and spearhead the process of presenting to and working things out with the Select Board. Gene agreed. Betsy moved that we appoint Gene to develop a methodology to give a presentation to the Select Board to help them understand the expertise they have at their disposal and come to a resolution about how BoH can be better integrated into their public health decision-making process. Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Henry, Barbara, Gene, Betsy.
 - Barbara suggested we request a special meeting that keeps the discussion separate from the remainder of the typical Selectboard

agenda. The group agreed. Betsy will try to set a meeting date before Labor Day.

- **Job Description for BoH Clerk:** Betsy noted that the job description was discussed prior to her arrival at the Select Board meeting on July 13. The Select Board has requested job descriptions from other municipalities.

IV. Elect Chairman Betsy recused herself. Henry led this portion of the meeting and asked for nominations. Susan nominated Betsy. Barbara seconded. Betsy conditionally agreed, based upon the outcome of the special meeting with the Select Board. Gene moved that Betsy be nominated as interim chairman until such time she relinquishes chairmanship. Susan seconded. Ayes: Gene, Susan, Barbara, Henry.

5:23: Randy left the meeting (due to storm disruption).

V: Budget Review (Kate): Total in Revolving Fund that can move is \$5000. BoH previously approved the transfer of \$2000 for 3 Ledges. Kate to review with Hilma the transfer of the remaining \$2468.

V. Nurse: Claire is making home visits. She does most of her work from home.

VI. Mosquito Control (Barbara): Barbara reported that she contacted Caroline Ness of the Pioneer Valley MCD to request reports. Feels discouraged with the lack of available information. Betsy to send Chris's contact information to Barbara. Heath has opted out of mosquito spraying (aerial per the Select Board decision). Barbara suggested we have good signage for protection from mosquitos for the Heath Fair.

VII. 3 Ledge: Betsy has opened the building for several realtors.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

FRCOG ITEMS: Betsy noted that FRCOG is hiring an additional regional nurse and health agent. Randy is applying for the position of Health Director which will have two agents underneath.

- **Hilltown Youth Camp Certification:** FRCOG had closely reviewed the application and is certified as a camp.
- **38 Bray:** Henry chaired this portion of the agenda (Betsy is an abutter and recused herself). It was reported that the bank has foreclosed and has applied for a Title V. Randy had expressed concern that the trailers were moved to 8A and that the children may be in even less acceptable living conditions. Title V failed. Property will transfer from the current estate to the new owner, so that the new owner can apply for loans for bringing the property up to Code.
- **594 Route 8A:** Property has been inspected by Randy/FRCOG, follow-up in process.
- **612 Route 8A:** Kate to research if there is a septic report and/or a TOP. Kate and Randy to send a letter to owner that the report is well past the due date and that the trailer must either have a TOP or be removed.
- **434 Route 8A:** Roof repair under review by Randy/FRCOG; house may be a tear-down.

- **7 Flagg Hill:** Randy is setting date to meet with the owner as the next step in the process to get the debris removed.
- **25 West Branch:** Randy to follow up with the owners regarding the deadline for their septic. If necessary, he will send a letter to them reminding them that they may be subject to fines.

Number 9 Road (NO NUMBER): Request for two trailers one property. Betsy recommended that we send a letter to the owners stating that they need to apply to the Zoning Board for an exception to the by-laws if they wish to have two trailers on their property. Kate to draft letter and review with Betsy.

- COVID: No new items.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Henry chaired this item as Betsy recused herself. Karen Brooks asked to transfer the Airbnb inspection/permit fee from last year to this year. Susan moved that we roll over the fee that Karen Brooks paid for 2020 to 2021. Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Gene. Kate to notify Karen and Randy of the decision.
- Engines idling in Town Center: Susan to follow up with Randy on state laws and get his recommendations for posting signs to prevent idling
- Chickens in Town Center. Susan does not want to deal with an anonymous complaint. Betsy let the Police Chief know there is an animal trespass regulation in MGL. Henry moved to note this is a nuisance complaint and that we are not going to deal with it. Susan seconded the motion. Aye: Godek, Gruen, Garland, Kovacs.
- NEW PROPERTY TRANSFERS:
 - 405 & 391 Route 8A: Kate to follow up with Randy on the Title V applications
 - 14 Knott Road: in process with plumber.
- Septic Review Process: Betsy asked the members to consider establishing a process for keeping track of deadlines for septic-related items. Kate to follow up with Randy including how other towns manage the process.

IX. ONGOING/SUSPENDED ITEMS: Kate and Betsy to review to ensure that the items are brought forward when due.

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:08. Seconded by Henry. Ayes: Betsy, Henry, Gene.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Peppard, BoH Clerk