

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Virtual Meeting
March 15, 2022

Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. with Robyn Provost Carlson, Susan Lively, Brian De Vriese and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance.

Others in Attendance: See attendance sheet.

Review Agenda: Board of Health appointment.

Public Comment: None.

Review Minutes: *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of March 1, 2022, as amended.*

On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of March 8, 2022, as amended.

Board of Health (BoH): Susan Gruen, member, reported that the BoH held a meeting to evaluate the status of the mask policy in Town. Susan stated that the Library Director attended the meeting and was concerned about the level of risk for the library patrons if the mask mandate was revoked in Sawyer Hall. The BoH voted to continue the mask mandate for anyone entering Sawyer Hall due to the congestion and the inability to social distance in that building. They also voted to have mask wearing optional in the other town-owned buildings. Susan L. remarked that it would be confusing to have one building at one level of policy and other buildings at another level.

There was also a request from the Library and the Post Office employees to reopen the first floor and bathrooms of Sawyer Hall. Concern was also expressed by the Select Board that, if Sawyer Hall were more open, there would be more people in the building. Hilma explained that opening the building would allow people to congregate. Opening the bathrooms would allow for use without encouraging lengthy conversation among people inside the building.

On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted that, upon recommendation by the Board of Health, the mask mandate would continue in all town-owned buildings at this time.

On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve reopening of the Sawyer Hall bathrooms only.

The BoH will review case rates and health reports at their next meeting on April 5th. Barbara Gordon stated that she had picked up 900 KN95 masks being distributed by the government for use by employees and other residents.

Review of March 8th Meeting:

FY22 MTRSD Error: Susan remarked that she is not convinced that it is the Town's responsibility to repay the amount of the error without looking at other options. With the corrected figures, the baseline amount is increased along with the regular amount. Robyn asked Hilma to approach Finance

Committee for a list of questions that the Town needs to have answered. She also commented that any questions asked at the last meeting about bonding and liability did not get answered. Barbara Rode said that she had many unanswered questions: How long is the window of time to audit records and bill back to the towns? Is there a cap on the amount of money to bill back? She commented that this is setting precedent for future situations. Did the district treasurer certify the assessment amounts, and should the treasurer's role be reviewed? Has the TMS bonding been reviewed to see if this type of error is covered? It should also be stated that Heath does not expect other towns to fund Heath students' education. Brian posed the question as to whether an audit can be requested. The Board agreed to draft a letter to the MTRSD personnel with the relevant questions and requests.

ARPA Funds: The Board requested Hilma to ask the relevant departments what they would like to see money spent on and develop a list.

Town Buildings: Robyn reported that she had looked at the Building Facilities Committee report and reviewed the Special Project accounts. There are approximately \$15,000 total funds in the accounts. Projects that need to move forward and estimates sought will be the metal double doors and concrete steps at Community Hall, ventilation to the Fire House to correct the mold issue, and the snow and ice guards on the highway garage. Susan asked if the steps on Community Hall should be replaced with an ADA accessibility ramp. Brian also stated that there was the step inside on the second floor that would need to be dealt with.

Salt Shed: The Board discussed the fact that it is too small a structure for today's needs. Brian and Tom Lively viewed the building today and discussed what means might be necessary to take care of storm water runoff that occurs. They were able to observe that water from the back hill was undermining the cement slab of the current shed which was leaning to the west. If the Bray Road property were to be utilized, the present deed restriction would prevent the Town from building a new salt shed there. It was agreed that the possibility of building a salt shed there would need to be revisited with the property seller. It was also noted that the Highway Department needs a different location for materials storage.

Boards Clerk: The possibility of forming this new position was briefly discussed. There are job descriptions from similar positions in two other towns. Susan and Hilma will draft a job description for review.

Green Communities Update: Brian reported that DOER has approved the projects of insulation for air sealing for the Jacobs Road municipal building and replacing exterior lighting at this location. FCTS electrical instructor Alex Jillson and senior electrical students met today with Brian, Hilma and the Building Maintenance Coordinator to look at the outside light project. The Energy Advisory Committee will meet Thursday.

Town Coordinator Report:

- **FRCOG Police Reform Earmark:** Received notification from FRCOG that the Town will be receiving an additional \$287 funding to help cover the Bridge Academy Training for hours spent this year by one of Heath's officers. This is in addition to the \$2,113 already received.
- **DER Culvert Replacement:** Completed and filed an application for a possible \$400,000 grant to complete the construction phase of replacing the culvert on the north end of Burrington Road. The existing metal culvert would be replaced with a 3-sided precast cement culvert that would allow a greater flow of water and much less possibility of road flooding due to debris damming or the small culvert's inability to carry the water volume during or after a heavy storm.

- **FCTS:** Met with the electrical teacher, 8 FCTS students, Tim Lively and Brian De Vriese this morning at the Jacobs Road facility. They viewed the lighting both inside and out and the CAT-5 ethernet wiring. The outside lighting was the most likely project for them. The instructor will check on availability of outside light fixtures and seek approval to schedule work from his own supervisor at the school.
- **KP Law:** Correspondence and other communication with town counsel in regards to legal situations that the Town is presently having to address.

Mail:

- M. Freeman re: story with a moral
- DAR re: nomination of inspector of animals
- A. Doster re: DLTA project status update
- MassDOT re: Ch. 90 award for FY23
- J. Weigand re: comment
- Ashfield re: Boards Clerk job description
- Charlemont re: Boards Clerk job description
- FCSWMD re: update on trash disposal
- G. Garland (BOH) re: mask mandate changes
- C. Reynolds/K. Barrows re: request to reopen Sawyer Hall first floor
- M. Reich re: Assessor position & Assistant Assessor position
- M. Cucchiara re: Quitclaim deed and Purchase and sale agreement— *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement for a 9-acre parcel of land abutting the Shapiro Land on Flagg Hill Road and to authorize Chairman Robyn Provost Carlson to sign the document on behalf of the entire Select Board.*

Next Meeting: If Finance Committee wants to have a joint meeting next Tuesday, the meeting will need to begin at a later time since Robyn cannot attend, and Brian will not be available until 6:30 p.m.

8:00 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(6), To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and the chair declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body; For deliberation and strategy for entering a long-term lease of space at the 18 Jacobs Road municipal building with Hilltown Theatre pertaining only to review, approval and release of Executive Session Minutes: Nov. 1, 2, 9, 16, 2021; Dec. 7, 21, 2021*

Susan Lively Aye Brian De Vriese Aye Robyn Provost Carlson Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator