

**MEETING MINUTES**

Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Virtual Meeting  
July 12, 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:** Postpone Cement Pad for propane tanks until July 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comment:** Jesse Weigand commented that he believes things occurring in national politics like the January 6 hearings are making people angry with government at all levels. He did not feel the Attorney General's office paid much attention to his complaints. The Select Board chose to meet in secret about the cell tower negotiations and threw his neighborhood and the Planning Board "under the bus."

Devon Clark commended the highway department for all the work they have done clearing roadsides and ditches on Route 8A. She also asked if, when there is a traffic accident that will close the road for hours, the town could put signs at intersections so drivers would know to detour the accident area.

**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 June 21, 2022, as amended.*

**FY23 Appointments:** The Select Board made the following appointments:

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Alice Wozniak to the position of Boards Clerk with hourly compensation of \$16.00.* This appointment was made following an unanimous recommendation by the interview team.

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Jeff Gougeon to the position of Local Building Inspector.*

Sue L. reported that the Council on Aging agreed at their last meeting to support a 5-6 hour per week Senior Program Director position. At their next meeting they will review the job description and draw up a prioritized list of duties.

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Claire Rabbitt, Gerard Gilbert and Eric Sumner to the Cemetery Commission.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Heather Row, Brian De Vriese, Buck (Bernard) Den Ouden, Pam Porter and Henry Josephson as members of the Conservation Commission and to appoint Bill Lattrell as Consultant to the Conservation Commission.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Brian De Vriese, Will Emmet, Bill Lattrell and Steve Thane to the Energy Advisory Committee.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Gerard Gilbert, Dennis Peters, Peter Smith and Hormidas Lively to the Heath Veteran's Memorial Committee.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Heather Hathwell, Nina Marshall, Jayne Dane and Susan Gruen to the Historical Commission.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Shahid Jalil, Jenna Day and Mike Cucchiara to the Parks and Recreation Committee.* The Board noted that the charge and duties need to be finalized. Barbara Rode will send a copy of the mission statement that had been developed when she was a member but had never been finalized.

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Sheila Litchfield as the WiredWest Delegate and Art Schwenger as the WiredWest Alternate.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Susan Gruen to a three-year position on the Board of Health.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Steven Thane to a four-year position on the Zoning Board of Appeals.* Although Alice Wozniak's term has expired and she is willing to be reappointed, Hilma will consult with town counsel about the correct way to conduct the appointment since she will also be clerk to the ZBA.

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Art Schwenger to represent Heath on the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Board of Directors.*

**End-of-Year FY22 Transfers:** Hilma explained that she had reviewed the Operating Budget Expense Report dated July 1 and adjusted those amounts with expenses from the July 11 warrant to determine which accounts were overdrawn and in need of additional funds to balance the accounts. There was a total of 12 overdrawn accounts with a total deficit of \$22,001.85. It was proposed that funds be transferred from four accounts with significant funds remaining. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to transfer the sum of \$22,001.85 from the designated four accounts with amounts to be transferred as was needed to 12 overdrawn and named accounts for the FY22 Operating Budget.*

**Covid and Mask Mandate:** Robyn read the report from the Board of Health that stated in their July 7 meeting they had voted unanimously to rescind the mask-wearing mandate in public buildings. She also reported that she had consulted with Town Counsel about questions that were raised at the previous meeting. Attorney Reich conveyed to her that an individual in their own office may require mask-wearing but must also offer an alternate meeting location where masks would not need to be worn such as outdoors. Boards and committees would be required to follow the decision of the Select Board. *At the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, a motion had been made and seconded to change the mask mandate to an advisory, the Select Board now unanimously voted to approve the rescinding of the mask mandate.*

**Town Buildings and Offices:** On June 30 Jeff Dougan from the Office on Disabilities met with Brian De Vriese, Deborah Porter and Hilma Sumner to walk through Community Hall, Sawyer Hall and the Jacobs Road municipal building. He pointed out structural issues with compliancy in each location. He will prepare a written report in several weeks' time.

**Community Hall 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Robyn reported that a group of volunteers had met for an initial meeting to begin planning the celebration. Other volunteers and any ideas would be welcome. No definite date for the event had been set. Anyone with ideas may email Elissa Viarengo.

**Disposal of Building Furnishings:** After review of a list of items presented by Hilma on suggestion of the Building Use Committee and herself, *on a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve disposal of such items that were listed.*

**MTRSD FY22 Assessment Error:** Brian reported that he had sent some information this day to Hilma that were suggestions of what to request in a letter that she will draft. Brian also reported that he had contacted Attorney Reich who had given him the name of Attorney James Lampke as a legal counsel who could review and assess the Board's questions in light of the regional agreement. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve contact and use of Attorney James Lampke as a legal consult.*

**Procedural Review for a Dog Hearing:** Robyn informed the rest of the Board that she will be following much of the protocol that has previously been used, although there may be some changes depending on the circumstances. If members have any questions ahead of time, they may send them to Hilma. The Town Coordinator will contact the Animal Control Officer to ascertain that all necessary documents have been sent to the Town for review. Robyn reminded the Board that the hearing will concern itself with only this one incident mentioned in the complaint.

**Green Communities Update:** There was nothing new to report.

**Aerial Mosquito Spraying:** Sue L. stated that she had attended the Board of Health meeting where it was reported that Heath's application to opt-out of aerial mosquito spraying had been approved by the state.

**Mail:**

- M. Reich, KP Law re: Ag's decision regarding Weigand OML complaint
- P. Porter re: resignation from ZBA
- P. McGahan re: safety concern
- R. Viarengo re: CH 150<sup>th</sup> celebration & history
- C. Rabbitt re: June monthly report
- Greenfield Recorder re: news article about book-weeding policy
- KP Law re: temp. lifting of cap on retiree earnings
- E. Viarengo re: BoH vote to rescind mask mandate
- N. Anzuoni, Fire Chief re; secondary access to JR library
- N. Anzuoni, Fire Chief re: Bellor Rd construction project—Hilma will forward to 11 Bellor LLC.
- Select Board re: letter of thanks to Colrain
- W. Ennen re: BB grant contract closed
- S. Suhoski (for STAM) re: possible unfunded mandates
- B. Rode re: School Committee exit evaluation

- Greenfield Recorder re: news article announcing redundant fiber network grant

**Next Meeting:** July 19, Jacobs Road municipal building—Dog Hearing, Community Hall 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, cement pad for propane tanks, possible FY22 transfers or FY23 appointments.

**7:50 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.***

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner