

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
18 Jacob Road
August 2, 2022

Called to Order at 6:01 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 Minutes: *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of July 19, 2022, as presented.*

On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 Dog Hearing, 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 July 28, 2022, as presented. Robyn Provost Carlson abstained because she was absent from the meeting.

License to Pour Application: The Board reviewed an application submitted by the Heath Agricultural Society for a license to pour during the three days of the Agricultural Fair to be held on August 19, 20 and 21. The Society also asked if the \$100 application fee be waived. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the application pending notification of the hours of operation and to waive the application fee.*

Use of Constables/Police at Elections: Town Clerk Mary Sumner sent a request to the Board explaining that one of the changes made to election reform law that was signed on June 22 by Governor Baker stipulates that the Select Board must approve use of constables and/or police officers for all polling places at every election. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to authorize the use of a sufficient number of constables and/or police officers at the polling location for each and every election for the purpose of preserving order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections, as required by Section 72 of Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022.*

State Primary Warrant: *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve and sign the State Primary warrant for the September 6, 2022 election.*

6:15 p.m. Public Hearing for the CDBG Grant: Brian McHugh, Director at Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, was present to recap the information for the FY20 grant awarded to the towns of Heath and Hawley. The terms of the grant are to provide loans for low to moderate-income single-family households in order to finance corrections to housing code violations or make energy upgrades. The FCRHA and the Town needs to find ways to reach more people with this opportunity. Mr. McHugh remarked that it can be difficult to commit all the grant funds because money coming back from paid off loans needs to be spent as well as the new grant monies.

A three-month extension will most likely be asked for to give more opportunity to spend the funds. Only a three-month extension can be sought at one time.

This same funding program can also be sought for use with municipal accessibility projects. The use could either be for planning and design or for construction. If this grant is to be used it would require reworking the terms of the grant and obtaining approval.

6:38 p.m. The CDBG hearing was adjourned.

Community Hall 150th Anniversary Celebration: October 8th is the date chosen for the celebration. Activities will take place between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Hall and on the Town Common. Hilma will soon send out a “Save the Date” email blast.

Green Communities Update: Brian reported that there had not been a response from ECI as to when they will begin work.

6:46 p.m. Dangerous/Nuisance Dog Hearing

Chairman Robyn Provost Carlson called the Dog Hearing to order. See separate minutes of hearing.

7:01 p.m. The hearing was adjourned for this evening and the Select Board meeting was reconvened.

Council on Aging (COA) Interests and Concerns: Sue reviewed a list of future activities that the COA is planning to hold. They are ready to advertise for a Senior Program Coordinator. Hilma will send out the final version of the job description for the position.

The Board reviewed a letter of request from the COA asking for space in the Jacobs Road municipal building to relocate the Senior Center. Having the Senior Center at that location will allow the COA to conduct a wider variety of activities and other opportunities. Sue explained that the COA realizes that there are mixed feelings of where the Center should be located, however, they want to offer Heath senior residents vibrant programs and what gives Heath the most potential for the future. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept the request of the Council on Aging and approve the relocation of the Senior Center to the Jacobs Road municipal building, Room 135.*

Building Use Committee Overview: Upon recommendation of the Building Use Committee and review of the Select Board, *on a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the revisions of the Building Use Committee Overview.*

Preschool Chairs: Hilma will contact the principal of the Colrain Central School and ask if the school is interested in the chairs as they need to be disposed of.

Town Coordinator Report:

- Interviews: On July 21 conducted three interviews for the highway department position. References were contacted and the interview team met on July 25 to evaluate the three applicants' qualifications. Recommendation to Board was formulated.
- NEIT Pricing: The technicians spoke with Hilma to review the different levels of equipment that were available for remote broadcasting. The information will be organized and shared with the Board at a later date.

- Cement Pad: JRB Disposal began work on Monday for pad the propane tanks will sit on at Jacobs Road. The form and reinforcement are in place and cement will be poured on Thursday. The company will do the finish work on Friday. Hilma has been in contact with Osterman Propane who will be scheduling the tank installation and hook-up to the generator.
- Expense Reports: Read through expense reports and met with the Accountant to resolve inconsistencies.
- Landfill Mowing: Prepared advertisement and postings to secure bids for mowing of the Tri-town Landfill. Ad will appear in the Greenfield Recorder on August 6. Postings are on the website and at town locations. Also emailed to two vendors.

Mail:

- CDBG Grant Program Hearing Agenda
- K. Dragon & RPC re: dog hearing
- M. Sumner, Town Clerk re: Assignment of Constables for Election
- P. Porter, BUC re: BUC Overview draft update
- S. Neill re: Agricultural Society Application to Pour
- S. Lively re: COA update on actions
- M. Reich, KP Law re: Court communication regarding ATT v. Town
- K. Maloney re: request for meeting
- M. Thurber re: request for meeting
- C. Rabbitt re: July town nurse report
- COA re: Request to relocate Senior Center to Jacobs Road

Next Meeting: August 16: Appt. with Intervenors, Salt Shed and Bray Road property, Senior Program Coordinator job description, CH 150th.

9:55 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
Town Coordinator