

**MEETING MINUTES**

Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
18 Jacob Road  
October 11, 2022

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

**Others in Attendance:** See attendance sheet.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Review Minutes:** *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of October 4, 2022, as amended.*

**Community Hall 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Recap:** Elissa Viarengo issued a generous “thank you” to all the community for helping to make the celebration a successful event that was enjoyed by many people. She estimated that there were 70-80, or more, people in attendance. A particular “thank you” was given to the Police Department Chief John McDonough and Officer Lee Lively for coordinating parking and traffic during the event. There was a steady pace of people touring the buildings and enjoying the activities. Because there were several interested people who were away the previous weekend, arrangements are being made to have the exhibit open on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> for 1:00—4:00 p.m. The Select Board gave a heart-felt “thank you” to Elissa as the primary organizer and to Bob Viarengo as the motivator who germinated the concept initially.

**Town Buildings & Offices:**

Salt Shed: Hilma will reach out to Andrea Woods (FRCOG) for information about writing an RFP for evaluation services. Representative Natalie Blais will be at the Transfer Station for about an hour Saturday morning. Hilma will contact Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni and ask him if he would be available to speak to her about both the Salt Shed and the Fire House.

Jacobs Road Office Assignments: There have been responses from two offices in regards to when office hours will be held. The Board requested that all replies be compiled for the next meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> for the Board to review. Hilma reported that the green counter from the Sawyer Hall office space had been moved and reassembled in the financial office room.

Community Hall Steps: The Board directed Hilma to contact JRB Disposal & Excavation and ask for a quote to replace the concrete steps that lead in to the upper level of the building.

**Senior Program Coordinator Posting:** After reviewing the written advertisement, the Board agreed that it would be posted in the usual town locations and advertised for one week in the Greenfield Recorder. The interview committee with consist of Pat McGahan, Hilma Sumner and either Victoria Burrington or Susan Lively from the Council on Aging.

**AT&T v. Town of Heath, and Intervenors:** There has been email communication back and forth between the intervenors and the AT&T attorney, Ed Pare. The company has dismissed considerations on other sites. The intervenors had presented a list of 11 requests to AT&T who had made an initial response. There needs to be more deliberation between the intervenors themselves and between both parties before there can be possible resolution.

**General Election Warrant:** The Board signed the Town warrants calling for Heath polling to be open on November 8, 2022 at 18 Jacobs Road for the purpose of the Massachusetts General Election.

**Heath Historical Society:** President Ned Wolf and Treasurer Bob Viarengo of the Society joined the meeting. They first presented an overview of the current status of the Society by reporting that there had been \$15,000 in revenue received in fiscal year 2022 although \$8,000 was a one-time grant to repair windows in the townhouse. The number of members and level of activities had been less in the previous few years due to the pandemic and there had not been any fundraising. Because of this, the 9-member board of directors was down to five members and there had been a \$1,300 deficit in the overall budget for the fiscal year. Bob did note that there had been gifts of \$20,000 given that were earmarked for building a climate-controlled building which they now realize is not feasible at this time. They will contact the donors to apprise them of this change of plans.

Ned and Bob both affirmed that the Society was still interested in climate-controlled storage and to that end were inquiring about the possibility of gaining use of the former assessors' office on the second floor of Sawyer Hall. It would be used to house documents, photographs, art and textiles. Some renovations would need to be done such as installing a mini-split unit with a separate electric meter. Robyn remarked that the old carpet should be removed before the room is occupied again.

This room would not be open to the public but would be storage of the more fragile items in the collection. It would also contain a desk where items could be accessioned. The HHS would need to know the future that the Board has in mind for the building and the accessibility status. For this latter item, the Board responded that a thorough analysis will need to be done.

It was agreed that this was an initial conversation and that further conversations and planning would be needed before a decision could be reached.

**Gas Odor:** Before the meeting adjourned, resident Barbara Gordon stated that she had smelled gas (propane) while sitting in the meeting. Hilma will speak with the Building Maintenance Coordinator and have the gas line and kitchen appliances checked for possible leaks.

**Town Coordinator's Report:**

- In an email received from Alex Jillson of Franklin County Technical School, he and the senior students in the electric program will be at Jacobs Road on Thursday to assess the remaining electric work of light exchange that would fall under the Green Communities grant.

**Mail:**

- EEA re: MVP designation
- M. Thurber re: teacher negotiations representative— *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve Barry DelCastillo to represent the towns during the MTRSD/teachers' union negotiations.*
- P. McGahan re: winterizing CH
- KP Law: eUpdate letter
- R. Viarengo et al re: CH 150<sup>th</sup> celebration feedback
- H. Hathwell re: neighbor's dog loose

**Next Meeting:** October 25: Meeting may begin at 5:30 p.m., depending on length of the agenda.  
Appointment with Hilltown Youth Recovery Theatre

**7:55 p.m. On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to move into Executive Session for the purpose of Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3), To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and the chair declared that an open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. For deliberation and strategy involving dispute over the FY2022 operating assessment between the Mohawk Trail Regional School District and the Town of Heath.**

Susan Lively

Aye

Robyn Provost Carlson

Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner  
Town Coordinator