

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
June 20, 2023

Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. With Robyn Provost Carlson, Susan Lively, and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator. Elissa Viarengo was absent.

Others in Attendance: See attendance sheet.

Review of Agenda: No changes.

Review of Minutes: *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of June 13, 2023, as amended.*

Public Comment: Barbara Gordon stated that she and David met with Tree Warden Steve Thane to discuss MA shade tree laws. She said it was a very positive meeting.

Pat McGahan commented that there is a “silent majority” of residents who think the Select Board are doing a good job.

Heath Historical Society: No action was taken on reviewing a draft lease.

Community Hall: Robyn showed a sample board of flooring samples for one to be chosen for installation on the lower level. Due to Elissa’s absence no decision was made although the other Board members and the attending residents chose a few samples that they thought would work well in the room.

11 Bellor LLC and True Cannabis: Robyn drafted a letter that will be reviewed by Hilma. She will then send it to Sue and Elissa for their review before it is sent to the company. The Building Commissioner will be sending a letter to True Cannabis with information about the fence.

Telephone System: Hilma reported that the final switchover to the new phone services is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 11th.

Parks and Recreation Commission Update: Mike Cucchiara, commission chairman, presented an update about their work. The application period for FY24 grant funding is open. He stated that the towns of Heath and Rowe will be applying for a second joint grant to continue the work of developing a continuous hiking route from Catamount in Colrain to Rowe. If awarded, this second phase would pay for engaging an agency to contact private land owners in hopes that they would agree to having through-trails built on their property. After an agreement, the agency would be instrumental in drawing up a legal contract between the land owner and the town(s) giving permission for work and use on their property. Mike also explained that there will be a new process put in place for invoice payment to happen directly by the state; more details will be coming at a future time.

Review of Appointed Boards and Committees: A new position, liaison to the Board of Health, was added and Elissa Viarengo was selected to serve in that capacity. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint designated individuals to all the single-person offices.*

On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint designated individuals to the various town boards, committees, and commissions. There were a few exceptions to the vote such as Board of Health and Parks & Recreation Commission that will be addressed at the next meeting.

Town Counsel will be consulted about whether the Select Board may appoint one of their own to a town committee. The outcome of this will determine if two positions on committees have become available or can be filled by Select Board members who have held them previously.

Transfer Station: Sue had stopped at the transfer station to talk with the new attendant, Lee Lively. He informed her that he had had a few individuals who did not respond kindly to his enforcement of the regulations for trash disposal. The Board asked Hilma to draft a letter introducing Lee and when he was appointed. The letter was also to contain the costs and income of the transfer station to explain the rationale behind the bag sticker increase. The letter, along with the information flyer, will be distributed at both the transfer station and the post office. After the beginning of the fiscal year, a copy of the list of permits that have been purchased will be given to Lee for reference.

Unfinished Business: A list of the unfinished business items will be drafted by Hilma and reviewed at the July 11th meeting. Discussion will include a very tentative time frame of when the Board will address certain items.

Next Meeting: June 27th for the purpose of finishing immediate appointments.

7:42 p.m. On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator