

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Jacobs Road Municipal Center  
October 30, 2023

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

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

The meeting was recorded.

**Review Agenda:** Salt Shed update was deleted. MTRSD district agreement was added.

**Review of Minutes:** *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of October 17, 2023, as presented.*

**Public Comment:** None.

**Heath Historical Society (HHS), Sawyer Hall Room:** The Board reviewed a letter from President Ned Wolf with questions about the two available options for use of a room in Sawyer Hall. The letter also expressed dismay at the length of time from the first expression of interest to the present time when clear counsel had been received from the town attorney. The Board responded that, given the concern expressed at the town meeting, they were hesitant to immediately consult legal counsel on the matter. Although there was no definitive answer from the HHS officers who were present, they responded favorably to the directive to have the Town Coordinator fill out the license form and send it for their review.

**11 Bellow, LLC:** The Building Commissioner had sent a letter to each of the four farmers to notify them that the special permits had been revoked because they were issued over 12 months ago without progress toward operation. The Board also reviewed an email from the attorney representing the developer and farmers expressing concern that the revocation of the permits was not congruent with the Select Board's expression of willingness to negotiate an extension of the Host Community Agreement. Hilma explained that she had responded by explaining that the practice of revoking special permits when a year had lapsed was standard practice.

**Town-Owned Properties:** The Board reviewed a list of properties that the town had taken ownership of for lack of tax payments. The decision was made to exclude the property at 5 Ledges Road since it was not certain if it would be needed by the town. They deemed that the other properties were to be offered for sale at a land auction that would be scheduled by the Treasurer.

**Community Hall Window Fundraising:** Hilma reported that she had attended an award-announcing ceremony in Pittsfield held by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. In preparation for final receipt of the grant award, the Board discussed formation of a fund-raising committee to solicit gifts toward the town's matching half of the funding. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to form a fund-raising committee of between three to five members.* To date there have been two residents who have volunteered to serve on the committee.

**Community Hall Building Needs:** The discussion centered around the work that was still needed for mold remediation in the building. The work was viewed by one company, but no cost estimate had been received. There will be an estimate sought from at least one other company. Each company will also be asked if they test to determine what type of mold is present. The Board also discussed aspects of closing and winterizing the Hall for several months to save expense on heating. Elissa will get information as to whether there are any reservations for use in the upcoming winter months.

**Sawyer Hall Roof:** No work has been done to repair the roof. The Building Maintenance Coordinator will be asked to express the urgent nature of the work to the company that had agreed to do the repairs.

**Avery Brook Road Tree Removal:** Tree Warden Steve Thane and Highway Superintendent Jeff Johnston identified and marked dead and dangerous trees along the road. The Board reviewed the list that was prepared. No hearing was needed since everything scheduled for removal would be dead and/or dangerous trees or small brush. The Highway Superintendent will contact Northern Tree Company to schedule the removal work. The Board recommended that the road be closed to thru-traffic during the work. Announcements will be posted once the work is scheduled.

**Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) Proposed Assessment Amendments:** Due to concern about obtaining a clear understanding of the potential effect that the proposed district agreement changes would have on the town, the Board would like to hold a discussion with the Finance Committee, and including Ken Rocke, to decide how to proceed. Analysis is still needed to understand what causes the difference in numbers depending on who prepares the information.

**Special Municipal Employees:** After review of the proposed list of town offices the following motion was made. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to designate the following positions as special municipal employees:*

- Animal Inspector**
- Americans with Disabilities Representative**
- Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Representative**
- Emergency Management Director**
- Emergency Management Alternate**
- E 911 Coordinator**
- Forest Fire Warden**
- Election Workers**
- Alternate Election Workers**
- Veterans' Graves Officer**
- Veterans' Representative**
- Fred G. Wells Trustee**
- Agricultural Commission members**
- Building Use Committee members**
- Building Facilities Committee members**
- Cemetery Commission members**
- Conservation Commission members**
- Council on Aging members**
- Cultural Council members**
- Energy Advisory Committee members**
- Heath Veteran's Memorial Committee members**
- Historical Commission members**
- Parks and Recreation Committee members**

**Board of Health members**  
**Zoning Board of Appeals members**  
**Woodlands Partnership Board of Directors member**  
**Community Economic Development Strategy Representative**  
**WiredWest Delegate**  
**WiredWest Alternate**  
**Town Coordinator**  
**Office Assistant**  
**Treasurer**  
**Tax Collector**  
**Boards Clerk**  
**Building Maintenance Coordinator**  
**Fire Chief**  
**Highway Superintendent**  
**Highway Mechanic/Foreman**  
**Highway Skilled Laborer/Operator**  
**Police Chief**  
**Police Officers**  
**Post Office Manager**  
**Post Office Substitute**  
**Senior Program Coordinator**  
**Town Nurse**  
**Transfer Station Attendant**  
**Director of Assessing (Board of Assessors)**  
**Library Director (Library Trustees)**  
**Library Assistant (Library Trustees)**  
**Municipal Light Plan Manager (Municipal Light Board)**  
**Board of Assessors members**  
**Moderator**  
**Town Clerk**  
**Finance Committee members**  
**Planning Board members**  
**School Committee representatives**  
**Municipal Light Board members**  
**Library Trustees**  
**Constables**  
**Fence Viewers**  
**Tree Warden**  
**Measurers of Wood & Bark**  
**Field Drivers**  
**Sexton.**

**Town Coordinator Training:** Hilma informed the Board that during the next three days she would be working at home because of a three-day online training.

**Mail:**

- N. Wolf (HHS) re: response to offer of license
- J. Hawkins re: 4 letters to cannabis farms revoking special permits
- H. Godek re: letter of appreciation to highway
- MTRSD re: solar celebration invitation
- DOR/DLS re: MTRSD excess and deficiency for FY24
- FCSWMD re: reports and October recycling costs

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

**8:30 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.***

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner  
Town Coordinator