

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Jacobs Road Municipal Center  
November 7, 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:** Avery Brook Road Tree Removal and CDBG Grant were 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 30, 2023, as amended.*

**Public Comment:** Robert McGahan spoke briefly about two concerns. First, he remarked that the Town could not afford to develop the Bray Road property and build a salt shed at that location. Bob also commented that, considering the frozen pipes and damage done last winter, it was impractical to keep Community Hall open during the winter months.

**Oldest Heath Resident:** Ruth Johnson, who is now 94, has become the Town's oldest resident. The Town is in the practice of presenting a certificate and the Town cane to the oldest resident. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to designate Ruth Johnson as Heath's oldest resident and present her with a certificate and the Town cane.*

**11 Bellor, LLC:** There has been no response from Heath's latest email. Hilma will recontact them. The Board noted that, in consideration of the new state regulations, the Town may need to develop new policies for dealing with adult cannabis businesses.

**Heath Historical Society (HHS), Sawyer Hall Room:** An email was received from the HHS stating that they would not sign an "at will" license for use of a room in Sawyer Hall.

**Town-Owned Properties:** The Town Treasurer is concerned because the exact locations of some of the parcels are obscure. She has determined that a land auction will be held in the spring to give time for property identification and final determination of final list of available properties that can be offered.

**Community Hall Window Fundraising:** The Board decided to make appointments as soon as possible so that planning may begin for fundraising. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Bob Gruen and Karen Brooks as members and Elissa Viarengo as ex-officio member to the Community Hall Window Fundraising Committee.* If more people volunteer to serve, they will be considered for appointment.

**Community Hall Building Needs:** Abide Company is scheduled to view the mitigation work in both center buildings. They will be in Town on Monday and take samples of the drywall in each location to have it tested for asbestos. This will be followed by the submission of a cost estimate for the work.

**Sawyer Hall Roof:** The Building Maintenance Coordinator reported that Titan Roofing was to make the necessary repair to the slate roof this Friday.

**Community Hall Winter Status:** The Board discussed whether the Hall should be closed to all use during the winter months. There are two options for closure: to completely shut off the heat and drain the water pipes, or to drain the pipes and keep a minimal level of heat in the building. Either option would minimize the utility costs and avoid the possibility of frozen water pipes.

**Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) Proposed Assessment Amendments:** An email was sent to the Finance Committee and to Ken Rocke asking about a meeting to continue discussion. Ken responded that he is available for future meetings. The Board decided to be proactive in initiating further discussions with MTRSD administration. Sue and Hilma will draft a letter of invitation to MTRSD to join a meeting. Sue also said that she had asked Ken if he could do a bar graph for each of the district towns as he had done for Heath that would compare assessments following the present calculation formula and assessments using the proposed formula.

**Avery Brook Road Tree Removal:** Work is scheduled to be done during next week, November 13-18. The road will be closed to through traffic with one detail police officer to enforce the closure.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve and sign the modification to the grant contract adding \$18,345.17 income to the current grant account.*

**Mail:**

- H. Sumner re: Public Contracting Overview certificate of completion
- K. Rocke re: future meeting to discuss MTRSD district agreement changes
- Mass Cultural Council re: grant award information
- FCSWMD re: compost bin subsidy program
- N. Anzuoni re: October report & grant interest for hydrants
- C. Rabbitt re: October town nurse report
- FRCOG re: refund on excess revenue of the FCCIP fees
- FCSWMD re: October recycling report
- Cannabis Control Commission re: summarization of new regulations

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

**8:05 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