

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
Tuesday, April 16, 2024

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.

Public Comment: None.

Review Minutes: *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of April 2, 2024, as amended.*

On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of April 9, 2024, as amended.

Community Hall Windows Fundraising: The total amount received in donations to date is: \$12,492.34. A concert is being planned for July 26th at the Charlemont Federated Church, Charlemont, to help raise funds.

Parks & Recreation Committee: Chairman Mike Cucchiara explained the work being done under the current Woodlands Partnership regional grant that is jointly benefitting the towns of Heath and Rowe. FRCOG personnel have been engaged in trail mapping for a through trail from Catamount Hill in Colrain to the State Forest in Charlemont. The second regional grant furthers this process with the Franklin Land Trust contracted to contact the landowners of property that is identified as a potential section of the planned trail. A current application is being submitted to further the work of obtaining permanent easements with private landowners.

The Committee has submitted a warrant article for the Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of allocating \$15,000 for the obtainment of a trail easement across the property located at 47 Vincent Road. Mike explained that the rate of purchasing a permanent easement for a hiking trail is \$12 per linear foot and this section of trail is approximately 1,000 feet. All money needed for the purchase of this easement will be funded by a Woodlands Partnership grant that the towns of Heath and Rowe received last year.

The Committee is also applying for a Heath grant of \$25,000 with which to purchase trail signage and possibly for other easement rights.

The Board asked if the committee members were aware of their charge and that their duties were to include work at all the recreation/park sites in Town. Besides the Shapiro Land, they were also to devote time and energy to the Town Center and Jacobs Road areas.

Town Nurse Job Description: The Board reviewed suggestions for some changes that were suggested by the Town Nurse. Robyn explained that she had reorganized the Essential Duties and Responsibilities section. Hilma will update the document with the discussed changes.

FY 2025 Budget Planning: Finance Committee members Tom Lively, Will Emmet, Alice Wozniak, Ned Wolf, and Bob McGahan joined the meeting.

The ATM warrant was reviewed. It was agreed that the Moderator would be asked to allow for a special town meeting to appropriate other funds for construction of the Salt Shed. At this time possible sources of revenue include FY24 Free Cash, ARPA funds, Ch. 90 money and borrowing. The Building Maintenance Coordinator will be asked to seek updated quotes for replacement doors and cement steps for the Community Hall. The warrant will be updated and sent to town counsel for review.

MTRSD Agreement Articles: It appeared that the requested information had not been received from the school district administrators. Hilma was directed to send an email to Budge Litchfield, School Committee Representative advising him that no information had been received and neither the Board nor the Finance Committee would meet without receiving the information in advance.

Article 3: The Finance Committee had not discussed the account lines before joining the Select Board meeting. There was general discussion about the Broadband CAF II monies, approximately \$200,000, that are anticipated to be released this summer. This will offset and pay for the principal and interest that will be due in September. The Municipal Light Board and Municipal Light Plant Manager will be invited to the next meeting to provide an update and answer questions about the CAF II funds.

Community Hall/Sawyer Hall Mold Remediation: The Building Maintenance Coordinator has completed painting in Community Hall. When he attempted to move furniture and bathroom fixtures back to the lower level, the lift was not in operation. Repair will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Building Planning: Robyn reported that she has contacted the outreach coordinator at the jail for painting the Community Hall and Sawyer Hall. There is only one painting crew this summer, so Robyn requested that Community Hall be placed on the project list. She is also going to ask a painter for a quote for painting the building. Robyn would like to have Jamrog engaged to do a complete assessment of the heating system at Jacobs Road Municipal Center.

Planning will continue for a new Salt Shed with writing of the RFP for design and construction. In thinking about a new Fire Garage to be built on the Jacobs Road property, there are updated drawings for construction. Letters need to be obtained from the Fire and Police Departments, the Select Board, and other departments that would benefit directly from a new building. When a package of documents is compiled, funding for construction will be pursued.

Mail:

- Parks & Recreation Committee Charge and Overview
- Parks & Recreation Committee re: information regarding proposed trail easement
- P. Porter re: recommended building rental changes from the Building Use Committee

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 23rd, 6:00 p.m.

9:40 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