

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
October 7, 2025

Called to Order at 6:00 P.M. with Robyn Provost Carlson, Elissa Viarengo, Will Emmet, and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance.

Other Attendees: See attendance sheet.

The meeting was recorded.

5:05 p.m. Pole Hearing for the installation of a new jointly owned utility pole at 29 Bellor Road. Robert Green, Design Engineer for National Grid, explained that the siting of the pole is necessary to extend utilities to a parcel of land located further north on the road. The new property owner plans to build a house. There will be a new pole and accompanying guy wire. ***On a motion by Will Emmet and a second by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve application #31192050, dated August 25, 2025.***

Review of Minutes: ***On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and a second by Will Emmet, the Select Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 23, 2025, with amendments.***

Public Comment: Barbara Gordon asked for an update on the renovation of Community Hall windows. Response given is that Mr. Hayward continues to work at his shop on the last portion of windows.

Hilma read a ‘thank you’ to the Highway Department from Henry Godek. He commended them for the exceptional work of grading the road.

It was announced that the bridge on Route 8A over West Branch Brook will be closed intermittently on Friday between the hours of 10:00 and 1:00 due to construction work.

ATM 2025, Article 21: Robyn reported that she spoke with town counsel who recommended that the Town proceed with the defect notice since approval of the bylaw changes may impact relevant future zoning-related decisions. : ***On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and a second by Will Emmet, the Select Board voted unanimously for the Town to proceed with the remedy for compliance of ATM 2025, Art. 21, changes to the Heath Zoning Bylaws.***

Town Coordinator Transition Plan: No recent updates. Interviews will begin this Thursday.

Spyglass Telecommunications Analysis: Hilma presented the proposal for services that would analyze all the Town’s phone line charges. The service is free initially. If Spyglass finds any overcharges, they perform the work of having the invoice(s) corrected. Their fee is the difference that was being paid to the utility for 12 months. The Board requested that references be asked for and contacted before a decision is made.

Highway Department Update: The department will revert to a five-day workweek beginning on Monday. An updated Salt Shed expense report has been prepared. Will is going to speak with both the Highway Superintendent and the Police Chief about being pro-active in warning residents not to park on town roadways, especially during the winter months.

JRMC Gym Roof Update: Titan Roofing is preparing a quote to replace the most worn sections of the roof which will include the gym and cafeteria/kitchen areas. Other companies will be contacted to furnish quotes of the same roof areas.

Friday Incident for Safety: Police Chief McDonough joined the meeting to discuss the situation of employee safety, feeling threatened, and what someone else may consider their freedom of speech. The Chief will speak with the person who entered the building last Friday and spoke in a manner that the employee was concerned and felt threatened. It was agreed that the Board needs to consult town counsel in writing a conduct policy for town buildings. It was agreed that Will and Hilma will research security cameras that can be installed inside the JRMC building.

Parks & Recreation Committee Update: Mike Cucchiara, chairman, reported that the new kiosk signs have been designed and are being prepared for installation. The committee is still waiting for a decision about the PARC grant awards. If received, it will mean the town will need to raise 20 percent of the cost, or \$5,000 toward the designated project of resurfacing the center basketball/pickleball court. The town's share will come from private contributions and transferring funds from the Parks & Rec municipal accounts.

Hilltown Youth Performing Arts (HYPA): The Board met with Jonathan Diamond and Laura Iveson to review the proposed six-month lease. Jonathan stated that they are going to be looking for a new location that will better suit their needs in terms of both the work and the ability to be eligible for more grant funds than they can qualify for by renting space in part of a building. He speculated that it would take them about three years to relocate and would like to remain where they are until then. The Board reaffirmed that, at the present time, they are willing to offer a 6-month lease to evaluate how the new document works and see if there needs to be changes made to it. Both Jonathan and Laura stated that they were surprised about non-negotiable terms. Robyn responded that all three members of the Board were not willing to go back and forth with those terms.

The wooden spools can only be used in the building if both the outside flat surfaces and round edges are completely covered with a non-abrasive material. The Board agreed to reduce the security deposit to \$1,000. The Board also agreed that, for two Sundays in January and two Sundays in February, HYPA could rehearse in the atrium for one block of time with rent payment and reservations.

Mail:

- J. Lively re: sign on center kiosk
- M. Cucchiara re: PARC grant
- D. Porter re: dirty gym floor
- RPC & J. Diamond re: terms of new lease
- D. Parsons re: shared policing discussion
- RPC & J. McDonough re: police ticketing
- T. Howard re: Taylor Brook Rd bridge
- HAS & D. Clark re: FCTS bussing
- C. Rabbitt re: September Town Nurse report

- J. Rush re: 2D8T Steering Committee update
- SpyGlass re: services offered
- T. Lively re: JRMC gym roof
- S. Lively re: fire safety grant services for seniors
- M. Thurber re: thank you
- FCSWMD re: Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Recycling Day
- Senator Mark re: October office hours

Next Meeting: October 21st

8:21 pm. Adjournment: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and a second by Will Emmet, the Select Board voted unanimously to adjourn.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator