

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 5:00PM.
JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

Called to order at 5:03PM with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo (Member), William Emmet (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

Others present included Patricia McGahan, Margaret H. Freeman, Barbara Gordon, David Gordon, Bill Fontes, Robert McGahan, Art Schwenger, Dave Peterson, Ned Wolf, Anne Emmet, Bailey Cole, and Alice Wozniak.

R. Provost announced that the meeting was being audio recorded.

Review Agenda Added: Winter Storm FERN; Hilltown Youth Performing Arts; Town Coordinator Transition.

5:00PM Appointment: Council on Aging – Patio Discussion/Presentation

M. Freeman proposed the installation of a concrete 22' x 16' patio with a 22' x 3' walkway to the outside door of the Senior Center. The project would be funded through a LifePath grant that P. McGahan would be applying for. The Highway Department was willing to perform the necessary excavation. The estimate for the concrete patio came out to roughly \$3,000, the maximum grant award. All remaining work could be completed by volunteers. The patio would give patrons of the Senior Center the ability to participate in outdoor activities in the warmer months. M. Freeman will keep the Select Board updated.

Review Minutes: 12/09/2025

A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by E. Viarengo to approve the December 29, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Review Minutes: 01/13/2026

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to approve the January 13, 2026, meeting minutes with revisions.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Public Comment

W. Emmet expressed his thanks for both the Highway Department and Building Maintenance Coordinator's hard work during winter storm FERN.

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Parks & Recreation Committee – Discussion re. Grant(s) Status, Budget, Project(s) Status, & Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail Enforcement Order

M. Francesconi summarized the information she had received from both Town Counsel and the MassEEA grant administrator regarding the FY '26 PARC grant. The contract documents could not be signed by the Select Board until a vote by annual town meeting designated the area as a public park. Ahead of this designation, the parcel would need to be surveyed and subdivided so that only the area of the basketball/pickleball court would be designated as a public park. Without subdivision, the entire parcel would remain a public park, and could not be utilized for any other purpose, ever again, without a 2/3 vote of State legislature. Members discussed the costs associated with this work and will be asking the Parks & Recreation Committee how/if they would like to proceed.

M. Francesconi had reached out to three separate wetlands consultants about the remediation of the Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail enforcement order. The only wetlands consultant that responded was David Cameron from Fleetwood Environmental. He would be writing up a scope of work and proposal for the project but did not believe remediation would be too cumbersome.

The MassEEA Woodlands Partnership grant for FY '25 was closed out as proof of signage installation was submitted. M. Francesconi had submitted for reimbursement for FY '26.

CEC, Inc. Change Order – Tri-Town Landfill

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve/sign the change order from CEC, Inc. dated December 30, 2025, revised January 5, 2026, for MassDEP post-closure monitoring and one semi-annual inspection of the Tri-Town Landfill for 2026, 2027, and 2028.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Community Hall Storm Windows - Replacement

R. Provost had not yet found a company that built storm windows sufficient for Community Hall. She would continue to ask around.

6:00PM Appointment: Municipal Light Board & MLP Manager – Financial Update & National Grid 3-Phase Project Discussion

B. Cole stated that internet service had not been interrupted once this year. Back-up generators were installed at the broadband hut. The MLB had also made upgrades to the security of the hut. Cash flow was projected to decrease in the coming years for the MLB, so they were considering gradually increasing subscription costs to be closer to that of other municipalities. B. Cole and A. Schwenger presented the projected cash flow of the MLB through FY '31 along with their statement of priorities. A. Schwenger then announced that the MLB had voted to transfer approximately \$60,000 to the Town for FY '26. A. Wozniak noted that this transfer should have occurred prior to the setting of the tax rate, preferably in September. A. Schwenger and B. Cole assured A. Wozniak that they would stick to the September deadline for FY '27 to not affect the tax rate. Discussion was had regarding the tax rate, MLB loan payments, and WiredWest. The MLB was still unsure of who would be financially

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responsible for the transfer of the fiber optic cables to the new poles during National Grid's 3-phase project.

7:00PM Appointment: Finance Committee – FY '27 Budget Planning Initial Discussion

The Select Board and Finance Committee discussed possible deadlines for warrant articles, ultimately deciding that warrant articles must be submitted to the Town Coordinator by March 13th. The Finance Committee will be discussing a stipend evaluation at their next meeting. The creation of a generalized budget calendar was discussed. A. Wozniak asked that all versions of the budget workbook be identified by date rather than version number.

Warrant Article Submission Deadline

See above discussion.

Sawyer Hall Rental Proposal – Vote Anticipated

Members reviewed Valerie Isaac's proposal to rent the upstairs room in Sawyer Hall. M. Francesconi was instructed to draft a lease agreement with the assistance of E. Viarengo.

Green Communities Grant Project – Heat Pump/Mini Splits for JRMC Front Offices – Vote Anticipated

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to accept/sign the heat pump install quote submitted by JAMROG, dated September 5, 2025, for the Jacobs Road Municipal Center front offices.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Request

None of the boards/committees/departments had responded with topics of interest for the DLTA request. The Select Board decided that they were most interested in unpaved road assessments, West County EMS regionalization, and assistance with the State's pending model bylaw for solar photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems. M. Francesconi will submit the request to the FRCOG.

Memorandum of Understanding – ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Tabled pending revisions.

JRMC Security Camera System – Vote Anticipated

Tabled pending revisions.

File Sharing Software

Town Counsel had advised that utilizing a file sharing system where numerous members of numerous boards/committees could edit documents outside of posted meetings would be a blatant violation of Open Meeting Law. M. Francesconi will inform the Alternate Emergency Management Director of this.

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Northeast IT Annual Contract

Tabled pending additional information.

Winter Storm FERN (New Business)

M. Francesconi explained that she was unable to access the CodeRED system and had been unaware that an alert should have been sent out. She will be speaking with someone at CodeRED about gaining access to the system for future use.

Hilltown Youth Performing Arts (New Business)

M. Francesconi explained that Hilltown Youth Performing Arts (HYPA) had not yet paid the second half of their security deposit but had paid their block rental invoices to date. Members decided to communicate to HYPA that the second half of their security deposit, totaling \$500, would be accepted no later than the date of their next meeting with the Select Board, February 17th.

Town Coordinator Transition (New Business)

Tabled pending additional information.

Mail

- FRCOG re. MOU for ADA Self-Eval. & Transition Plan
- FRCOG re. Scope of Work for ADA Self-Eval. & Transition Plan
- NEIT re. Multi-Year Budget Forecast
- NEIT re. 2025 Annual Review
- J. Atwood (FRCOG) re. FRPAB Member Recommendation Request
- M. Sumner re. Natalie Blais Resignation Update
- H. Sumner re. CodeRed Agreement Auto-Renewal
- J. Eberwein re. 2D8T Monthly Update
- J. Ameen re. FCSWMD 2025 Annual Report
- J. Ameen re. FCSWMD January Recycling Costs
- E. Viarengo re. Sawyer Hall Rental Proposal from V. Isaacs
- M. Cucchiara re. FY '26 PARC Grant Award Documents
- P. McGahan re. Grant Process & Policy Suggestions
- M. Cucchiara re. Parks & Recreation Committee Grant Summary
- H. Sumner re. Thoughts on Basketball/Pickleball Court Re-Surfacing
- M. Cucchiara re. Basketball/Pickleball Court Re-Surfacing Budget
- H. Sumner re. Thoughts on Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail Culvert
- V. Farny (EEA) re. Completion of FY '25 WP Grant
- J. Lively re. Flagg Hill Road Maintenance Proposal
- M. Wilmeth re. Signage in Center of Town
- JAMROG re. Heat Pump System Install Quote
- C. Garland re. ATM Warrant Article Questions

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- MassDFG re. Purchase of Property
 - D. Clark re. Parking at JRMC
 - P. Consolo re. FRTS Proposed Building Project Cost
 - B. Cole re. Budget Information for MLB

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 5:00PM

Meeting Adjournment

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 8:58PM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mia Francesconi', is written over the printed name.

Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator
Town of Heath