

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 4:30PM.
JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

Called to order at 4:31PM with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo (Member), William Emmet (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

Others present included Barbara Gordon, Ned Wolf (Finance Committee), Robert McGahan (Finance Committee), Madison Schofield (Greenfield Recorder), Mary Sumner, Liam Cregan (Franklin Land Trust), Jesse Weigand, and Pat McGahan.

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

4:30PM Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator – End of Probationary Period; Employee Evaluation – Vote Anticipated

Members expressed that M. Francesconi was doing a good job and was learning quickly. M. Francesconi was instructed to double-check correspondence prior to sending and evaluate whether the situation warranted an immediate response. M. Francesconi was asked how she felt about her performance and how the Board could be of assistance going forward. M. Francesconi stated that she would continue to ask questions as needed and expressed her desire to obtain her MCPPO (Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official) certification. R. Provost suggested that M. Francesconi be given a \$1/hour increase effective immediately with another \$1/hour increase, plus the 2.8% Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA), effective July 1, 2026.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to retain M. Francesconi in her position as Town Coordinator, and increase her salary by \$1 per hour to \$36.10 per hour effective immediately, with another increase by \$1 per hour to \$37.10 per hour, plus the 2.8% Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA), effective July 1, 2026.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

5:00PM Liam Cregan, Franklin Land Trust – Heath & Colrain Conservation Effort

L. Cregan explained that the Franklin Land Trust is in the process of applying for a grant that will allow them to purchase numerous parcels of land throughout Heath and Colrain that would be put into conservation restrictions. If these parcels are purchased, the total contiguous acreage in conservation restrictions would exceed five hundred (500) acres. Taxes on these parcels would be paid at the conservation restriction rate. M. Sumner noted that a parcel owned by her and her siblings is one of the parcels in questions. The parcel is landlocked, steep, and most of the surrounding parcels were already in conservation restrictions. L. Cregan asked if the Select Board would be willing to submit a Letter of Support for Franklin Land Trust's grant application. R. Provost stated that the Board would consider the submission of a letter of support if he sent a template letter to M. Francesconi.

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Meeting Minutes: 03/17/2026

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve the meeting minutes from March 17, 2026, as presented.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Highway Department – Discuss Paving Options

R. Provost explained that she had numerous conversations with the vendor that was proposing New Work Chip Seal, a new paving technique, for Sumner Stetson Road and Number Nine Road. The vendor strongly recommended this technique and the result lasts longer than chip seal alone. M. Francesconi noted that the Highway Superintendent, Tyson Howard, had already gotten the Town on the books for Colrain Stage Road, where a full-depth reclamation with chip seal and binder will be completed. T. Howard had spoken with David Stokes, the MassDOT District 1 State Aid Engineer, who had recommended that upon completion of New Work Chip Seal on Number Nine Road, the Town apply for a STRAP grant to traditionally repave the road. Members instructed M. Francesconi to let T. Howard know that he could put the Town on the books for Number Nine Road and Sumner Stetson Road.

Animal Inspector Nomination – Vote Anticipated

R. Provost had spoken with the current Animal Inspector, Aimee Jarvis, who had expressed her willingness to continue as Animal Inspector if no one else was interested.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to nominate Aimee Jarvis as Animal Inspector for the Town of Heath.

Vote: R. Provost, Abstained; E. Viarengo, Yes; W. Emmet, Yes.

Motion Carries: 2-0-1

Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Review/Discuss 03/24/2026 Draft

Members discussed the order of warrant articles in previous years. R. Provost explained that she had spoken with Counsel who opined that the Town could remove both the Community Hall Use Revolving Fund and Jacobs Road Municipal Center Use Revolving Fund as their use does not align with the intended purpose of revolving funds. If approved, the money that is currently in the funds would be moved to the General Fund and all rental revenue would be moved into building-specific rental accounts moving forward, with unanticipated building expenses being budgeted for in maintenance/utility line items. Members will discuss this further with the Finance Committee.

FY '27 Budget – General Discussion; Review/Discuss 03/24/2026 Draft

Members reviewed the budget, noting that the line items that needed to be reviewed with the Finance Committee or were pending additional information were Finance Committee Expense, Reserve Fund, Build. Maint. Coord. Salary, Lawn Mowing, Ctr. & Ceme., Salaries-Police Department, Winter Salt/Sand & Other, Broadband, Salary Town Nurse, and Special Projects Current FY.

Public Comment

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J. Weigand requested that the meeting minutes of November 5, 2025, be reviewed for accuracy as the portion that summarized his public comments did not adequately reflect his sentiments. He felt that the minutes portrayed him as blaming the road crew for an incident involving untimely plowing when Town leadership (the Select Board) should have been blamed. He noted that many people vote out of anger when they lose trust in leadership, so minutes should accurately reflect the discussions that were had. He noted that the statements made about the Planning Board should also be reviewed. R. Provost stated that the minutes would be reviewed for accuracy. He then expressed his dissatisfaction with the choice to move Town Offices to the Jacobs Road Municipal Center from Sawyer Hall as he believed the ongoing expenses to outweigh the benefits of the move.

M. Schofield announced that she would no longer be the West County reporter for the Greenfield Recorder as she was being moved to the Greenfield reporter position. Members expressed their gratitude for M. Schofield and noted the importance of local journalism.

Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser

Members reviewed the draft bill of sale and memorandum of understanding from the Colrain Town Administrator. Members requested a statement of quality from the Colrain Select Board that outlined the work that was performed on the vehicle and the vehicle's status. W. Emmet would be scheduling a test drive with the Fire Chief, Nicholas Anzuoni, and would report back to the Board with their findings.

Lease Agreement Next Steps – Hilltown Youth Performing Arts; Valerie Isaacs; Heath Historical Society; Carin Freeman

M. Francesconi explained that she had finished the draft lease agreements for Hilltown Youth Performing Arts and Valerie Isaacs and had sent the agreements to the prospective lessees for review. E. Viarengo would be following up with Valerie Isaacs. M. Francesconi explained that she would be working on new license agreements for both the Heath Historical Society and Carin Freeman, but the Heath Historical Society had paid their rent to date.

Boards' Clerk & Office Assistant Job Postings

Tabled pending additional information.

Mail

- L. Cregan (Franklin Land Trust) re. Heath and Colrain Conservation Effort
- M. Cahill (MDAR) re. Nomination of Inspector of Animals
- W. Baker (WR Baker Corp.) re. Printer/Copier Estimate
- Attorney General's Office re. "Street" Warrant Article at 2025 ATM
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- LifePath re. Senior Center Patio Grant Application Award
- L. Scarbrough (FRCOG) re. 2026 Traffic Counting Program
- W. Lataille re. MTRSD Enrollment Calculation Error Follow-Up
- M. Sabourin (Franklin Land Trust) re. D2R2 Bicycle Ride

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- Colonial Power Group re. Community Choice Power Supply Program Report
 - J. Ameen (FCSWMD) re. February Recycling Costs
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Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 4:30PM

Meeting Adjournment

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 7:50PM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Respectfully submitted,



Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator
Town of Heath