

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, May 5, 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 Pat McGahan (Heath Connects), Barbara Gordon, Bill Fontes, Ned Wolf (Finance Committee), Robert McGahan (Finance Committee), and Jason Clark (Clark's Custom Paint).

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

Review Agenda

Meeting Minutes: 04/28/2026

A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by E. Viarengo to approve the meeting minutes from April 28, 2026, as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Annual Town Meeting – General Discussion; Review Final Draft Hand Out; Approve Hand Outs for Distribution at Annual Town Meeting

Members reviewed the draft handout supplied by M. Francesconi and approved the handout as amended. M. Francesconi will make the revisions and prepare the handout for distribution at annual Town Meeting. M. Francesconi noted that the local Teacher's union was in the process of securing volunteers to provide childcare during Town Meeting.

Jason Clark, Clark's Custom Paint – Jacobs Road Municipal Center Sign Progress & Layout

J. Clark presented a sample of the lettering style that he would use on the Jacobs Road Municipal Center sign. Members approved of the lettering style but explained that they'd like to see a copy of the full design before J. Clark proceeds with the painting. J. Clark will send the mockup to M. Francesconi. J. Clark explained that the previous sign was in good shape and could be refinished and reused for the new sign. He will prime the wood with automotive primer, so the paint will last longer than it had before.

Office Assistant & Boards' Clerk Positions – Review/Discuss Next Steps; Job Descriptions

M. Francesconi explained that the first few interviews went well and the last interview was scheduled for the following day. She will update the Board when the interview group has a recommendation. She still hadn't received applications for the Boards' Clerk position but had received emails from the Board

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of Heath that proposed reimagining the position. M. Francesconi was instructed to remove the Boards' Clerk job postings until the Board could discuss the position further.

Route 8A (Jacksonville Stage Road) Over Underwood Brook Culvert/Small Bridge – Discussion re. Easements, Progress, and Project Funding

M. Francesconi explained that she had reached out to the project manager at MassDOT in Boston, and the project manager will be making sure that the metes and bounds plan is created. The lead engineer for the project reached out to M. Francesconi with a couple of grant opportunities that could cover the additional estimated construction costs over the \$1,000,000 that will, hopefully, be covered through MassDOT's Municipal Small Bridge program. M. Francesconi will investigate these opportunities.

Deerfield River Watershed Association – Questions re. Wild & Scenic Initiative

Members posed questions that M. Francesconi will communicate to Christopher Curtis from the Deerfield River Watershed Association. E. Viarengo explained that she had found a website that had more information about the initiative. M. Francesconi will share the link with the Board.

Highway Department – General Discussion; Street-Sweeping; Taylor Brook Road Bridge; Colrain Stage Road Paving; Chapter 90 Funds

M. Francesconi stated, according to the Highway Superintendent, that Colrain Stage Road will be milled and paved over the next two weeks. The road will not be closed but will be reduced to a single lane while the work is being done. The posts on the Taylor Brook Road bridge were set in concrete. Once the concrete is cured, the company will come back and install the slats.

Community Hall – Elevator & Cupola

M. Francesconi stated that the computer module for the elevator (lift) that was sent out to be fixed was sent back unfixable. The Building Maintenance Coordinator had inquired about other options but hasn't heard back. The Town of Colrain's Highway Department removed the remaining trim pieces of the cupola. Members expressed thanks to the Colrain Highway Department for this work.

HVAC – Sawyer Hall & Jacobs Road Municipal Center

M. Francesconi stated that the broken heat regulating valve at the Jacobs Road Municipal Center was replaced. The Building Maintenance Coordinator is still waiting for a final plan for Sawyer Hall from the heating company.

Tri-Town Landfill – Clearing of Vegetation; Invasive Species Eradication

Tabled pending receipt of quotes.

Public Comment

P. McGahan stated that the cleanup of the Town Common area went very well. Members expressed thanks to the volunteers and the Highway Department for all their hard work.

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Mail

- DRAFT April 21, 2026, Select Board Minutes
- N. Thane re. Signage at Jacobs Road Municipal Center Driveway
- T. Miller re. Childcare at Annual Town Meeting
- DRAFT Warrant & Budget Notes from the Select Board
- Boards' Clerk Job Description Approved June 18, 2024
- S. Litchfield re. Board of Health Clerk
- S. Gruen re. Board of Health Clerk
- Office Assistant Job Description Approved October 26, 2021
- Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser Transition Information
- C. Curtis (Deerfield River Watershed Association) re. Wild & Scenic Initiative
- T. Howard re. Taylor Brook Road Bridge
- T. Lively re. Community Hall Lift
- C. Rabbitt re. Town Nurse Position Update
- C. Rabbitt re. April Town Nurse Monthly Report
- M. Cahill (MDAR) re. Inspector of Animals Appointment
- P. McGahan re. Grant Committee
- L. Cregan re. Behl-Amter Conservation Restriction
- J. Rush re. 2D8T Steering Committee Meeting Date
- J. Eberwein re. April 2D8T Update

Next Meeting: *Annual Town Meeting:* May 9, 2026, 9:00AM
 Next Regular Meeting: May 19, 2026, 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 7:14PM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator
Town of Heath