TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS

SELECT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 5:00PM.

JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

Called to order at 5:00PM with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo (Member), William Emmet (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

Others present included Barbara Gordon, Bill Fontes, Bill Lattrell (Conservation Commission Consultant), and Chris Curtis (Deerfield River Watershed Association).

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

Review Agenda: Add: NEW Opioid Settlement with Albertsons – Decide Whether to Participate – Vote Anticipated; Highway Department Update – General Discussion

Meeting Minutes: 09/22/2026

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to approve the meeting minutes from September 22, 2026, as amended.

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

Motion Carries: 2-0-1

Accounts Payable/Payroll Warrants

Approved by signature.

5:05PM: Christopher Curtis, Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA) – Wild & Scenic Initiative Presentation; Question & Answer Period

C. Curtis explained that the Wild & Scenic Initiative for the Deerfield River began in 2020 when, upon learning that the Deerfield River could qualify for the federal Wild & Scenic Designation, the DRWA began conversations with communities surrounding the river to gain their support for the initiative. They gained support from many of those towns in both Vermont and Massachusetts, from regional organizations, businesses, and even from state agencies, congressional representatives, and senators. The DRWA received a Woodlands Partnership grant in 2025 to fund a study to determine the eligibility for designation of the Massachusetts side of the river. The study determined that most of the river is eligible except for a few specific sections. The study to determine the eligibility of the Vermont side of the river is now underway. Heath is home to two tributaries of the river: the West Branch of the North River and Mill Brook, so the DRWA is asking the Heath Select Board to express their support for the river's designation in the form of a letter. C. Curtis explained that the designation would prohibit the installation of certain structures that impact the free-flowing characteristics of the river, such as dams, and would impose a review process through the National Park Service for other specific projects for which federal funding is utilized. The designation is also a requirement for certain grant programs as

well as a "checkbox" for others. For projects involving a review by the National Park Service, it's possible that conditions could be imposed on the project, such as aesthetic requirements. The designation would be permanent and would require the formation of an advisory board to which communities and residents could apply for funding for certain projects allocated to the board by the federal government to distribute to communities with the designation. B. Lattrell explained that he had researched the designation and found that the project requirements are less strict than the current wetlands regulations in Massachusetts, so it wouldn't have much, if any, negative impact on project permitting. Members were satisfied with C. Curtis' explanation and informed him that they would put approval of a letter of support on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting. C. Curtis will send M. Francesconi a letter template.

Meeting Minutes: 10/07/2026

A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by R. Provost to approve the meeting minutes from October 7, 2026, as amended.

Vote: R. Provost, Yes; E. Viarengo, Abstained; W. Emmet, Yes
Motion Carries: 2-0-1

Public Comment

None.

Verizon – Telephone Service Discontinuation; Review & Vote to Send Letter of Opposition – Vote Anticipated

B. Fontes stated that residents should reach out to their equipment providers to find out whether their equipment (i.e. security and fire alarm systems) will work using voiceover IP technology. He researched M. Francesconi's point made at the previous meeting about life alert systems and agrees that most will need to be replaced with new systems that work with wi-fi connections. R. Provost suggested that residents contact Verizon as well to determine their eligibility for alternate services. E. Viarengo and B. Fontes will work together to write a letter of opposition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding Verizon's service discontinuations. Once finished, members agreed that M. Francesconi may sign and send the letter on the Select Board, Council on Aging, and Board of Health's behalf without further approval.

Treasurer Resignation – Review Resignation Letter from Kristi Nartowicz; Decide Whether to Accept; Next Steps – Vote Anticipated

M. Francesconi explained that Kristi Nartowicz, Treasurer, submitted her letter of resignation effective December 31, 2026. E. Viarengo will conduct an exit interview. M. Francesconi will create a job posting for the position and have it ready, along with the position's job description, for presentation at the next meeting.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to accept, with regrets, the letter of resignation from the Treasurer position submitted by Kristi Nartowicz, effective December 31, 2026.

Vote: Unanimous
Motion Carries: 3-0

Home Rule Petitions for Fire Chief, Nicholas Anzuoni, & Call Member, William Emmet – Update from Town Coordinator; Review, Approve, Sign, & Vote to Send Written Testimony to Joint Committee on Public Service – Vote Anticipated

M. Francesconi explained that Senator Paul Mark's office contacted her to let her know that the bills for both W. Emmet and N. Anzuoni's home rule petitions had been filed and a hearing of the Joint Committee on Public Service was scheduled for November 2, 2026. She had drafted written testimony for the hearing and requested the Board's approval to submit it for consideration.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to sign and submit written testimony in support of the home rule petitions for Firefighter William Emmet and Fire Chief Nicholas Anzuoni to the Joint Committee on Public Service for consideration during their hearing on November 2, 2026.

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

Motion Carries: 2-0-1

Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser – Review Update from Diana Parsons, Colrain Town Administrator; Update from Town Coordinator; Next Steps

M. Francesconi explained that D. Parsons informed her that the Colrain Select Board decided that they supported Heath's idea that Colrain retain ownership of the cruiser with Heath paying to outfit it with the equipment necessary for the Fire Chief to use the vehicle. Unfortunately, M. Francesconi spoke with the Town Accountant who informed her that the appropriation made at the Special Town Meeting on December 9, 2025, was to purchase a vehicle, not to outfit a vehicle, so in order to move forward, the Town would need to go back to Town Meeting to re-appropriate the funds to outfit the vehicle. The Board agreed that this could wait until the Special Town Meeting for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District in early 2027, but that they could work on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in the meantime.

Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee, Robyn Provost, of Financial Interest in a Municipal Contract as Required by M.G.L. c. 268A § 20(d) – Review & Decide Whether to Approve Exemption – Vote Anticipated

R. Provost explained that the Highway Superintendent had previously asked her husband, Kyle Jarvis, if he would be willing to plow over the Winter as a call-in CDL driver. She noted that K. Jarvis hadn't decided whether he would do this, but she wanted to file a disclosure of financial interest in a municipal contract if he did. She stated that if the Board approves an exemption and K. Jarvis decides to be a call-in driver, she will recuse herself from Select Board conversations and decisions regarding Kyle Jarvis and related financial topics.

R. Provost recused herself from the remainder of the conversation and stepped out of the room.

E. Viarengo and W. Emmet reviewed the disclosure and decided to approve an exemption

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve the § 20(d) exemption, stating "We have received a disclosure under G.L. c. 268A, § 20(d) from a special municipal employee, Robyn Provost, who seeks to have a financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency of this

city or town. We understand that the special municipal employee, Robyn Provost, participates in, or has official responsibility for, activities of the municipal agency that made the contract. We approve this exemption under § 20(d) regarding the financial interest identified by the special municipal employee, Robyn Provost."
Vote: R. Provost, Abstained; E. Viarengo, Yes; W. Emmet, Yes
Motion Carries: 2-0-1

R. Provost returned.

Community Choice Power Supply Program/Municipal Aggregation – Review Rate Change Postcard, Press Release, & Public Notice; Update from Town Coordinator
M. Francesconi explained that she had received a sample postcard to be sent to all residents who are opted into the Community Choice Power Supply Program (CCPSP) informing them of the upcoming rate change, from Colonial Power Group. They asked that the Board review the postcards before they are mailed. The Board reviewed and approved the postcard. M. Francesconi stated that another postcard would be sent once the new rate takes effect to all residents, regardless of whether they are opted into or out of the CCPSP, to inform them of the Program and give instructions for opting in.

Green Communities Grant Final Report – Review
M. Francesconi explained that the final MassSave inspection had been conducted and she was waiting to hear whether the rebate application had been approved so she could submit the final Green Communities grant report. M. Francesconi presented the final report for members to review.

Town Building Maintenance – Sawyer Hall Heating System Issue & Resolution Estimate – Vote Anticipated
A motion was made by R. provost and seconded by E. Viarengo to accept the estimate from White Heating dated August 18, 2026, for $1,458.43, to perform heating system repairs at Sawyer Hall.
Vote: Unanimous
Motion Carries: 3-0

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to accept the proposal from Palmeri Electric, for $1,975.00, to perform the electrical work for the heating system repairs at Sawyer Hall.
Vote: Unanimous
Motion Carries: 3-0

MassDEP Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) – Grant Award; Review & Approve Grant Scope of Work – Vote Anticipated
A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve the Grant Scope of Work between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Town of Heath for a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant amounting to $7,800.00, under the Recycling Dividends Program.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Meeting of Select Board, Finance Committee, Municipal Light Board (MLB), & Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Manager – Propose Dates/Times

M. Francesconi explained that, as suggested in the previous meeting, she wanted to begin scheduling the meeting between the Finance Committee, MLB, and Select Board. Members proposed dates and times for the meeting. M. Francesconi will send the dates and times to the Finance Committee and Municipal Light Board.

Town Coordinator Updates

M. Francesconi presented the attached document entitled *Town Coordinator Updates, October 13, 2026.*

Mail

- Deerfield River Wild & Scenic Fact Sheet from C. Curtis
- E. Viarengo re. Wild & Scenic Designation
- Town of Hawley Letter of Opposition to Verizon Service Discontinuation
- Greenfield Recorder Article re. Town of Hawley Letter
- B. Cole re. Verizon Service Discontinuation Notice w/ Attachment
- S. Lively re. Council on Aging Support for Verizon Letter of Opposition
- K. Nartowicz re. Letter of Resignation from Treasurer Position
- Proposed Bills for Anzuoni & Emmet Home Rule Petitions
- D. Parsons (Colrain) re. Select Board Decision on Fire Chief Vehicle
- W. Emmet re. Test Drive & Inspection of Fire Chief Vehicle
- Procom Services Estimate for Fire Chief Vehicle Outfitting
- DRAFT Intermunicipal Agreement from Colrain for Fire Chief Vehicle
- R. Provost re. Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee w/ Attachment
- Community Choice Power Supply Program DRAFT Postcard
- Community Choice Power Supply Program DRAFT Press Release
- Community Choice Power Supply Program DRAFT Public Notice
- Green Communities Final Grant Report
- White Heating Estimate for Sawyer Hall Heating System Repairs
- Palmeri Electric re. Proposal for SH Heating System Repair Electrical Work
- MassDEP re. RDP Grant Award Letter & Scope of Work
- MassDEP re. Checklist for Recycling Dividends Program Grant Award
- A. Wozniak (Director of Assessing) re. Davenport Land Update
- S. Lively re. Council on Aging Support for Participation in RIDGE Program
- West County EMS Discussion Meeting Summary September 30, 2026
- 2027 MIIA Rewards Status Report as of October 9, 2026
- HCGIT FY '27 Annual Report & FY '28 Outlook
- J. Corwin re. "Will rural schools receive their fair share?"

- MassDOR re. MTRSD Excess & Deficiency Certification
- J. Eberwein re. November 2026 2D8T Update
- M. Maloni re. FRCOG 5th Wednesday Meeting on December 2, 2026
- S. Gruen re. PVMCD Weekly Surveillance Report EPI Week 39
- T. Howard re. Clothing & Textile Hauling Tonnage Report
- MassEOTSS re. FREE Cybersecurity Health Checks from OMST
- Verizon re. 2027 Pole Attachment/Conduit Occupancy Rates

New Business: NEW Opioid Settlement with Albertsons – Decide Whether to Participate – Vote Anticipated

M. Francesconi explained that there was a new opioid settlement with Albertsons that the Town is eligible to participate in. To participate, the Town must execute the settlement documents.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to participate in the Albertsons Opioid Settlement and to designate Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator, as the authorized signatory for the settlement documents.

Vote: Unanimous
Motion Carries: 3-0

New Business: Highway Department Update – General Discussion

R. Provost explained that one of the Highway Department Skilled Laborers/Operators will be out on medical leave until at least December 1, 2026. The Highway Superintendent will be working on a plan for plowing if it snows before he returns. W. Emmet explained that the Department is still working on patching Number Nine Road, but the overlay on the North section is expected to be done by the end of next week. One of the trucks blew a hydraulic tank and is being sent out to be repaired. He and the Highway Superintendent will be going to pick up a safety trailer purchased through the MIIA Risk Management grant in the coming days. W. Emmet is almost done repairing the roadside mower.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2026, 4:00PM

Meeting Adjournment

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 7:40*PM.

Vote: Unanimous
Motion Carries: 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator



Town of Heath

ATTACHMENTS NOT INCLUDED IN MAIL:

- *Sign-In Sheet, October 27, 2026*
- *Town Coordinator Updates, October 27, 2026*

Heath
Select Board Meeting

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2026

Please Sign In

Name (please print)

PRINT NAME	SIGN
Bill Fontes	
Barbara Gordon	Barbara Gordon
Bill Lattrell	Bill Lattrell
Chris Curtis	

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN COORDINATOR

TOWN COORDINATOR UPDATES

October 27, 2026

JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER ROOF LEAK

Last Update - 09/28/2026 – As you all probably saw, Tim sent us a video last Monday of the roof leaking again in the same spot. He sent the video to Titan Roofing, and I haven't heard from him since.

GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT

Last Update - 09/30/2026 – JAMROG came this morning and made the adjustments to the heating zones. I have not received an email about scheduling an inspection, but I should be receiving one soon.

10/13/2026 - I received an email asking to schedule the inspection and I responded with our availability.

10/19/2026 - The inspection was completed this morning.

DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, WILD & SCENIC INITIATIVE

Last Update - Chrisopher Curtis from the DRWA will be at the Select Board meeting on October 27th at 5:00PM. I still have not heard from the Conservation Commission as to whether any of their members plan on attending.

10/13/2026 - Elissa was able to confirm that Bill Lattrell will be at the meeting.

***** This Update is on the Agenda *****

TOWN CENTER ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Last Update - 10/06/2026 – Trevor from Mack Brothers Elevator informed me that the mechanic who they believe may be able to help us was out for the last two weeks due to a family emergency. He spoke with the mechanic this morning and he will be getting back to Trevor when he is able.

10/13/2026 – Mack Brothers Elevator took pictures of different lift components at the Community Hall on Friday, 10/09/2026, to show to the mechanic who they believe may be able to help us in hopes that they will confirm whether a part they located will work for our lift.

***** Moved "JRMC Accessibility Improvements" to a Separate Update Line *****

ROLLER

Last Update - 09/30/2026 – I spoke with David Stokes, and he had a couple of different ideas. I will update this again when I have a chance to make the phone calls that he suggested.

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN COORDINATOR

BURNT HILL-CATAMOUNT TRAIL ENFORCEMENT ORDER

Last Update - 09/28/2026 - I spoke with David Cameron of Fleetwood Environmental Solutions who informed me that he had been under the impression that the Conservation Commission was going to inform the Select Board of the Commission's approval of the Restoration Plan. I sent him an email back asking what he recommends for next steps and I have not heard back.

TOWN NURSE POSITION

Last Update - 10/06/2026 – Rachel came and toured the JRMC today. I introduced her to Claire and gave her the employment paperwork. She is very excited for her first day in a couple of weeks.

10/20/2026 – Rachel's first day was today. I believe Claire, Sheila, and Sue all participated in her first day "onboarding" and it sounds like everything went well. She had all her employment paperwork filled out and ready to go, so was able to submit her first time sheet. I'm working with Dave and Kris on getting her set up in the payroll system. We briefly reviewed the phone system, the computer system, the website, and bill payment, but will go over them in more detail as needed.

TOWN CENTER KIOSK

Last Update - The Town Center Kiosk was removed by the Highway Department and was placed in one of the storage containers at the Jacobs Road Municipal Center until a more suitable location for its placement is agreed upon.

SAWYER HALL RAMP

Last Update - 10/01/2026 – Tyson called Sonam again and he will be grinding down the uneven slabs on the Sawyer Hall ramp within the next two weeks. He has not given Tyson a definitive date/time.

#2 HEATING OIL FOR TOWN BUILDINGS

Last Update - 10/08/2026 – I went to go request a quote for the Town of Heath for FY '27 off the State contract and the new contract "ENE58" hasn't opened yet. I'll check back at the beginning of next week and I'll call if it isn't open as it was supposed to open on October 1st.

10/13/2026 – I checked again and "ENE58" still isn't open. I will call and see what's going on.

10/20/2026 – I sent an email to the category managers to ask when "ENE58" will be open.

ROUTE 8A (JACKSONVILLE STAGE ROAD CULVERT PROJECT)

Last Update - 10/07/2026 - The Town of Heath received $500,000 from the MassWorks STRAP program for this project. I should be receiving the contract and acceptance documents soon. Separately, MassDEP's Waterways Regulation Program determined that no further review of the proposed work or authorization is required pursuant to M.G.L. c. 91 and 310 CMR 9.00. That's the first of many approvals that we will need to carry out this project as proposed.



FLAGG HILL ROAD BRANCH

Last Update - The Select Board reviewed the estimate from J. H. Maxymillian and will continue discussion, possibly with the Finance Committee, at a later date.

NATIONAL GRID 3-PHASE PROJECT

Last Update - 10/07/2026 - Robyn asked National Grid if/when they planned on removing the remaining logs that had been claimed, but not removed, by property owners. National Grid responded that the logs were there because of storms, not because of the project. Robyn asked Tyson if he agreed with National Grid. Robyn has not heard back.

CULTURAL FACILITIES GRANT

Last Update - Robyn and I will work on the procurement for the storm windows.

SAWYER HALL HEATING SYSTEM

Last Update - 10/07/2026 - Tim will be requesting a quote for the electrical work that wasn't included in White Heating's proposal.

10/14/2026 – Tim requested a quote from Palmeri.

10/19/2026 – Tim received a quote from Palmeri.

***** This Update is on the Agenda *****

BOARDS CLERK POSITION

Last Update - The Boards Clerk job advertisements were taken down at the request of the Select Board after there was no interest in the position for a considerable length of time. The Board planned on revisiting the position at a later date.

10/13/2026 – At the Select Board meeting, a variety of ideas were discussed with Doug Mason and Alice Wozniak. I will be checking with Olivia to see if she'd be willing to temporarily take on additional hours as needed through the end of the fiscal year to assist.

10/15/2026 – I spoke with Olivia and it seems unlikely that she will be able to take on additional hours, though she noted that if she had a description of the Board's expectations for those additional hours, she'd be able to give a definite answer.

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT LAYOUT & PRINTING

Last Update - 10/05/2026 - I sent an email to the Small-Town Administrators of Massachusetts (STAM) listserv to see if anyone had any recommendations of companies in the area that do the layout for their

annual town reports. The Town Administrator from Becket recommended a company out of Pittsfield that seems to do exactly what Liz Canali did, so I put in a request for a quote from them. I haven't heard back yet.

MONITORING WELL

Last Update - 09/28/2026 - Tyson emailed me to let me know that he found a piece of PVC pipe that he thinks will work as a "cap" for the damaged monitoring well pipe. He will be attempting to install this when the weather is better.

WEST COUNTY EMS REGIONALIZATION INITIATIVE

Last Update - 09/30/2026 - The meeting today didn't produce any new information.

10/14/2026 – I was unable to attend the meeting today, but Tim was able to go and plans to give me an update if anything substantial was decided on or important new information was produced/presented.

10/15/2026 – Tim informed me that there wasn't any substantial progress made at the meeting. Response time maps are still being developed, Buckland and Shelburne's demand numbers (number of calls) used in the assessment calculation documents are still being reviewed for accuracy, and the group still hasn't decided whether to issue a press release.

MEETING WITH MOHAWK ESTATES

Last Update - 09/23/2026 - I emailed the President of the Mohawk Estates board to invite them to a meeting and have not heard back.

10/14/2026 – I received an email back from the President asking for the 6:00PM meeting slot at this meeting (October 27, 2026). Given that the DRWA discussion is likely to be lengthy, I responded with the Board's November availability and asked that they pick a new appointment date/time. I have not heard back.

FIREWALL REPLACEMENT & SERVER WARRANTY EXTENSION

Last Update - 10/01/2026 - Northeast IT called to let me know that the server warranty was extended for another two years and that the firewall replacement will be completed when our Client Success Manager is back from vacation.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Last Update – 10/07/2026 – Alice hasn't tried to access the Zoning Board's new email account yet but will soon.

HOME RULE PETITIONS FOR FIREFIGHTERS & POLICE OFFICERS



10/07/2026 – Senator Paul Mark's office confirmed that another representative will take the lead on the firefighter's bills in the House. At the request of Sen. Mark's staff, I overnight shipped local approval documents to Boston, and they will be marked priority when they are submitted. Separately, the Police Department has a Police Officer that will be turning 65 in April and will need separate legislative approval to continue serving the Town of Heath as a Police Officer after that date. I will ask around to see whether it will make a difference if we hold a Special Town Meeting in the Fall, or if we wait until the Special Town Meeting in early 2027 to request local approval for submission to the legislature.

JRMC ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Last Update - 10/08/2026 – I had Olivia come up with a list of materials (with prices) that we will need to make the small accessibility improvements at the JRMC. I will be giving this list to Tim and will ask him to purchase the materials. Once the materials are in, we can schedule a work bee.

***** Moved From "Town Center Accessibility Improvements" *****

SAWYER HALL, FORMER LIBRARY SPACE

10/06/2026 – He still has to empty the closet, but Tim is finished painting the room and informed the Board that it was ready for occupancy.

***** New Update Line & Old Update *****

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

10/13/2026 – At the Select Board meeting, the Board designated both the 2002 International 7400 and the 1987 Case Tractor as surplus property. Both will be disposed of as soon as possible.