

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Heath Elementary School
May 24, 2010

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tom Lively with Brian De Vriese present. Also present Town Coordinator Gloria Fisher and community members (see attached list).

Agenda was reviewed with no changes.

Mail

- E-mail from Jeff Simmons with an updated report reflecting additional tonnage for trash and recycling and the revenues received.
- Letter from Wired West informing the town that so far 31 towns have voted to join their effort. The letter also requests that the town appoint a primary and an alternate to serve on the WiredWest Organizing Committee. Brian moved to appoint Al Canali as representative from Heath to the WiredWest Organizing Committee. Tom seconded. The motion passed. Brian moved to appoint Art Schwenger as alternate from Heath to the WiredWest Organizing Committee, pending his acceptance. Tom seconded. The motion passed.
- Executive Director's report received from Jan Ameen, FCSWMD. In the report she notes that she has been asked by towns to write and release a bid document for water monitoring at closed town landfills. She thinks it is possible that a regional bid might lower costs for participating towns.
- Memo from Kopelman and Paige regarding Amendments to the Family and Medical Leave Act Regulations. It has been amended to provide for two new forms of leave, for military service members and their families. The memo answers questions concerning the requirements of the "new" FMLA.
- Report from the Health Agent for the month of April.
- Letter received from the Mass DEP regarding Increased Oversight/CAAA for the abutter's well maintenance.
- E-mail from the Hwy Supt. informing the Board that he has looked at the storm drain in front of Sawyer Hall and will be letting the Board know of possible solutions.
- Copy of a letter from the Building Inspector to a Heath property owner regarding work done without a building permit.
- E-mail from the Charlemont Select Board confirming that a 3TL will be held with town counsel on June 3, 7 p.m., at the Hawlemont School. Another meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. with Dan Hall from the DEP. The place has not been determined.
- E-mail from the FRCOG notifying the towns that an Open Meeting Law training will be held June 10, 7-9 p.m. at the Tech School.
- E-mail reminding Select Boards that the MMA's Leadership Conference will be held June 12 in Sturbridge.
- E-mail from the FRCOG informing the towns that the FRCOG has a summer intern who will work with them on a variety of projects, including regional assessing and animal control.

7:10 Sheila Litchfield entered the meeting.

Preschool

Sheila gave a brief history of the origins of the Heath Preschool, how it functions now, and changes proposed by the Mohawk Supt. It was noted that Mohawk is not officially a pre-K-12 district and that the school committee has no input or conversations about the preschool budget. Funding for the preschool comes from Community Partnership for Children (CPC) grants, tuition, and money that the town of Heath raises and appropriates, the only town in the district to do so. Discussed the Rowe preschool, which is free and accepts children from other towns. It was noted that it is important to start children in the Heath preschool with the hope that they will continue in the Heath School. It was also noted that it is important and state mandated to have places for pre-K children needing special accommodations, and that it is less expensive to

accommodate these children in Heath rather than sending them elsewhere. Presently the Heath Preschool is open three, four-hour days a week. Discussed funding for next year's preschool and that Heath has \$20,000 in a revolving account for the preschool, some of which will be used next year. It was suggested that residents spend some time devising ways in which the preschool could be made financially viable. The District may explore a pre-K-12 district and other ways to maintain the preschools. Discussed how the preschool is currently being run and how many children attend. The number varies by year and there are several children attending from out of town. Tuition is set on a sliding scale of \$400-\$1500/student/year. It was noted that most of the budget is for staffing costs.

It was announced that at the June 7 meeting, a pay as you throw program will be discussed, which will also be held at the school.

7:43 Everyone present in the audience left the meeting.

Town Coordinator Report

The Town Coordinator reported that:

- **PAYT** - Jan Ameen is able to attend a Select Board meeting on June 7. She is also filling out the paperwork and grant application to the DEP for Heath to receive funds for help initiating a pay as you throw program.
- **Right to Farm Signs** – Dave Freeman, Chair of the Ag Commission, has acquired three blank signs to use for notifying people that Heath is a Right to Farm Community. He proposes that three individual resident artists be asked to paint the signs. It was questioned where the signs will come from and that perhaps the town needed 5 signs; two other local artists were suggested to paint signs.
- **Accountant's computer** – is owned by town, not the software supplier.
- **Property Auctions** – the treasurer would like to meet with the Board to discuss the resolution of the Sherman property and to ask permission to hire a professional auctioneer to auction several properties.
- **Ben Downing's Meeting** – She went to the Coffee and Conversation with Sen. Downing on Friday afternoon at the Rowe School. She told him of the Select Board's unanimous opposition to casinos. In addition broadband access was discussed. Sen. Downing noted that he has been in Washington lobbying for Massachusetts to receive a grant in the next round of applications. He also noted that MBI is working with WiredWest. Also discussed were commercial windmill farms and whether towns are opposed or accepting of windmills. It was noted that acceptance depends on a multiple number of factions. Regional school transportation was discussed and Sen. Downing noted his and Sen. Rosenberg's efforts to make clear to the legislature the special conditions we face in the western part of the state. We also discussed forestry and taxes.
- **Web Site** – Graham has been having difficulties migrating the town's new website to the Crocker hosting system. He says after many hours of trouble shooting, he discovered that they are running outdated database software that is not compatible with the version of WordPress we are trying to use. He doesn't believe there will be any issues in having Crocker update this software for us. Meanwhile, he has put the old site back up. He will be in contact with me. He hopes to migrate the new site as soon as possible.
- **Filing and Organizing** – efforts are being ramped up. I spent approximately 4 hours on this last week.

8:00 Dog Officer Bob Tanner entered the meeting.

Dog Officer

Bob mentioned that he would like to exchange the dog kennel at the town garage for one he has at home. He said the present town kennel, at 6' x 6' x 4', was not tall enough and that made it easy for dogs to escape. The kennel he has at home is 10' x 10' x 6' and has a lock. The Board agreed and Brian moved to pay Bob \$150 for exchanging the kennels. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Discussed needing a new location for the kennel or an appropriate way to make it more accessible. Tom will investigate ways to better access the kennel. Discussed dog complaints and whether to have a dog hearing. Discussed problem dogs and that they are now chained. The Board will speak with Town Counsel at the June 3 landfill meeting.

8:16 Bob left the meeting.

Old Business

- EOC Roof – there are no leaks in the roof at the present, so there is no rush to replace the roof.
- Speed Limit Changes – Chief Margo Newton will be invited to the June 28 meeting regarding appointments and the speed limits. It was noted that the Board would like to meet with the Police Chief quarterly.
- Microfiche – The town clerk has no need for the machine and since it is mostly metal it can go in the metals bin at the transfer station.
- Landfill – reviewed letter from the DEP regarding water testing at the landfill. The biggest concern is what is now required and the cost associated with it. It was also pointed out that there were inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the letter. Discussed how to find an alternative to testing. The spreadsheet for well drilling costs was reviewed and discussed.

Documents Signed –Warrants and documents were signed.

Minutes

Brian moved to approve the May 17 meeting minutes as amended. Sheila seconded. The motion passed.

Brian moved to adjourn. Sheila seconded. The motion passed.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath School.

Adjourned 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Fisher, Town Coordinator