

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Heath Elementary School
June 7, 2010

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tom Lively with Brian De Vriese and Sheila Litchfield present. Also present Town Coordinator Gloria Fisher, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) Executive Director Jan Ameen, and 19 community members (see attached list).

Agenda was reviewed with Three-Town Landfill meeting schedule added to new business.

Mail

- Meeting notice for the Selectmen's Association dinner on June 17 at 6:00 at the Greenfield Grille.
- E-mail from Bob Dean re: the Municipal Services Survey Request.
- Notice of a Municipal Affairs Coordinating Cabinet meeting in Easthampton on Thursday, from 1:30-3 p.m. The meeting is chaired by Lt. Gov. Murray.
- E-mail from Leah Gibson re: FRCOG Council Appointment. Brian moved to appoint Tom Lively as Heath's representative to the FRCOG. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Pay As You Throw (PAYT) – Jan Ameen

Jan gave an overview of how PAYT works. Residents pay for special town trash bags, with the expectation that the bag fees will cover the trash disposal costs. The purpose is to decrease the amount of trash and increase the amount of recyclables. Residents pay for each unit of trash and recyclables are collected at no added cost. PAYT provides an incentive to recycle and compost more. Jan noted that PAYT towns with drop-off trash have an average recycling rate of 35.6 %. Jan reviewed the town's trash and recycling rates over the past several years. Heath has been fairly consistent with a recycling rate of approximately 23% each year for the past 4 years. Jan explained that last year Heath's trash rate decreased by 13.6% from the previous year. Across the country there was a 10% decline in cash, which she attributed to the economy. She pointed out that a survey indicated no increase in illegal dumping across the state when PAYT was instituted. Discussed what happens to trash that is now not in trash bags when it is disposed of. Jan noted that nothing will be able to be thrown into the compactor except trash bags. Discussed options for getting rid of bulky waste. Discussed community composting. Don Freeman explained the Finance Committee's positions, both pros and cons. He noted that instituting PAYT would have little net effect on the budget. Doug Mason presented of list of both problems associated with PAYT and solutions for increased recycling. Problems include: 1. perhaps needing another employee at the Transfer Station, which would cost money. 2. long lines at Transfer Station. 3. illegal dumping on the roads of Heath. 4. what to do with materials that are now banned at the Transfer Station. And 5. the costs of bags and/or stickers, doing mailings, and the costs of a new system . Increased recycling solutions include: 1. Separate: Redeemable cans and bottles, aluminum, copper, compost, clean burnables, metal, clothing, toys, furniture, and electronics, and bulky waste. He also suggested a specific place for reusable materials. 2. Educate. 3. Enforce the rules, and 4. Put recycling money back into the tipping fees to determine how much the transfer station actually costs the town. Other pros stated from the group include PAYT is more earth friendly, and as a fee for service, more equitable. Other cons stated include concern with illegal dumping, enforcement, and the perception that it is a tax increase. Chair Tom Lively mentioned that the town has set up a recycling committee, but there is a need for volunteers. Tom then did a straw vote. Five people thought PAYT should be instituted; 14 people did not. The Board will continue to research and discuss the PAYT option.

8:45 Jan Ameen and all audience members left the meeting.

Mail (continued)

- E-mail memo from Kopelman and Paige regarding “Quinn Bill” arbitration in town’s favor. The ruling means that towns are not responsible for paying the state’s share of Quinn Bill benefits.
- E-mail from Ted Harvey, student intern at the FRCOG who is researching possible regional solutions to staffing challenges for animal control and assessing services. It contains a short questionnaire. The assessors have responded to the assessing questions. The Select Board answered the questions regarding animal control.
- Minutes from the May 12 Mohawk District School Committee meeting. Agenda from the June 9 school committee meeting, which will be held in Colrain.
- Letter from Board of Health clerk Elizabeth Nichols with regard to an e-mail conversation she had with the DEP about Whittemore Spring. Betty notes that the water from spring has been testing very good for quite a while. In order to keep its grandfathered status and to reactivate the spring, the DEP needs two seasons of MPA testing – fall 2010 and spring 2011. The DEP also needs to know who is responsible for the spring, and if the town is to be the responsible party, they need a written agreement between the spring’s owner and the town.
- Copy of a letter from Kathy Inman to Mike Smith re: lawn mowing.
- Copy of Heath’s buy recycled policy from the FCSWMD.
- Notice of a mitigation planning workshop for local governments in Marlboro on July 15 & 16
- Memo from Kopelman and Paige regarding end of fiscal year billing.
- Notice from Franklin County Home Care Corporation that they are accepting applications for grants of funds under Title III of the Older Americans Act.

Town Coordinator Report

The Town Coordinator reported that:

- Claire’s computer has been hooked up and is receiving wireless internet in her office at the Senior Center.
- Website –Crocker was sent instructions to let Graham migrate the new website.
- Art Schwenger has agreed to represent Heath as an alternate to the Wired West Broadband Committee.
- Landfill – Researched and compiled water test results and geologic and hydrologic information for TRC.
- The town coordinator has been speaking with census workers who need information on residences that appear to be unoccupied.
- Filing and organizing efforts are ongoing.

New Business

- Landfill Meeting – Tom mentioned that the next Three-Town Landfill meeting will be held on June 21, 2010, at 7 p.m., at the Hawlemont School.

Documents Signed –Warrants and documents were signed.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for June 28, at 7:00 p.m. at Sawyer Hall.

Adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Fisher, Town Coordinator