

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
July 26, 2010

Called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Tom Lively with Sheila Litchfield present. Also present Town Coordinator Gloria Fisher, Community Hall/Senior Center members Dolly Churchill and Eileen Tougas, and candidate for state House of Representatives Ed McDonald.

Agenda was reviewed with no changes.

7:12 Brian De Vriese entered the meeting.

Community Hall

- Eileen updated the Board on the improvements made to the Community Hall per request of the building inspector. She mentioned that the outside emergency stairs should be looked at; she thinks they may be unstable. Tom asked Eileen to call Steve Crowningshield to look at it. Eileen and Dolly presented a list of items that need to be taken care of in the Hall.

- **Shed**

Eileen presented a plan for a 12' x 20' vinyl sided shed to be placed on the south side of the building. Discussed how to pay for the storage shed. It will be brought up at the Special Town Meeting.

- **Stage Curtains**

Eileen did some research on stage curtains. Although they are very expensive, she found some on e-Bay that are reasonable. New curtains will cost \$2,961.06, which includes a 10% discount and free shipping. The curtains will be paid for from the Community Hall Functions account. Brian moved to approve Eileen's purchase of the curtains from Rose Brand for \$2,961.06; she will pay for the curtains and be reimbursed from the Community Hall Functions account. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous

7:40 Eileen and Dolly left the meeting.

Landfill

Tom related the situation of the abutter's well and the possible scenarios for remedy. He explained the options that have been explored – new filtration system, new well, or buy the property. Tom also noted that the DEP is involved in reaching a solution and that their rules will be getting more restrictive and expensive in the near future. He noted that the three-town landfill committee (select boards from Heath, Hawley, Charlemont) has decided the best way to minimize liability to the towns is to purchase the land from the homeowner to be split three ways, plus legal costs and closing costs. Town Counsel is in agreement with this plan and recommends it. The town may need to consider a borrowing at a special town meeting. The towns will need special legislation to be co-owners of the property. Don was informed that the next three-town landfill meeting will be August 12 and that a member of the FinCom was invited to attend. Tom and Charlemont Select Board member Jean Brisson met with the landowner and she is amenable to the solution. The purchase is contingent upon the property owner signing a waiver of liability. Informational meeting to be held before the special town meeting so that residents can ask questions and the Board can explain the options.

8:13 Don left the meeting.

Mail

- Agenda for the July 21 Mohawk School Committee meeting.
- Minutes from the June 9 Mohawk School Committee meeting.
- E-mail from Dave Howland, Heath Historical Society, requesting a waiver of building permit fees for replacing the roof on the Old Town House.

- Notice from the Franklin Regional Transit Authority requesting the appointment of a designee to serve as the FRTA Advisory Board member.
- E-mail from Becky Allen, Mohawk School Committee member, notifying the Board that she has been appointed to the Education Subcommittee and the Collaborative for Education Services (CES) and that Ann Pacino has been appointed to the Building Subcommittee and the Transportation Subcommittee.
- Approved vacation form for Don Purington for August 2-7.
- Notice of the quarterly meeting of the Franklin Selectmen's Association on September 16 at the S. Deerfield Polish American Citizens Club.
- Copy of a letter to the Holy Trinity Lay Community noting a violation of the building code, regarding their certificate of inspection.
- Notice from the Town Accountant informing the Board that the Veterans Benefits account may run out of money before June 30, 2010, due to an increase in the monthly pay out.
- Memo from Chief Margo Newton notifying the Board that she has received permission to collect the data the town needs for a traffic study.
- Letter from the FRCOG inviting the town to participate as a Project Partner for Sustainable Regional Planning in Franklin County. They also requested a letter of support for their grant application.
- E-mail from Mike Smith detailing the projects he has left for the Highway Dept. to accomplish during his vacation absence.

Town Coordinator Report

The Town Coordinator reported that:

- Website – the new website has been repaired but still needs some work.
- Filing and Organizing – efforts are ongoing.

Old Business

- Assessors Software – it was noted that although the software appears to be working well, the tax revaluation may not be done in time to set the new tax rate before December 1. The Assessors will be asked to attend the August 9 Board meeting to discuss any need for additional assistance.

New Business

- Signs in Town – it was noted that there are signs posted in town that may not meet the zoning bylaws. No complaints have been received.
- Town Coordinator Resignation – the town coordinator noted that her letter of resignation submitted on July 12 still stood. After discussion it was decided that her last day would be Friday, July 30, amended from the original date of August 20. Brian moved to accept the town coordinator's resignation effective July 30. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Discussed the hiring process and the need for a temporary town coordinator until the position is filled. The town coordinator was asked to e-mail the her job description and the help wanted ad to the Board.

Documents Signed – Warrants and documents were signed, including the contract with Gorman.

Minutes

Brian moved to approve the July 12 meeting minutes as amended. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for August 9, at 7:00 p.m. at Sawyer Hall.

Adjourned 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Fisher, Town Coordinator