

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Community Hall  
September 3, 2013

**Called to order** at 7:01 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Bill Lattrell and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

**Reviewed Agenda:** Added to other business: New Wetland Regs. and impact on Highway Dept.; Heath Herald report. Remove review of 8/27 minutes. Added to Appointments: Ed Grinnell, ACO and Sarah Hettlinger, Asst. ACO 7:30 p.m.

**Reviewed Minutes:**

*On a motion by Bill Lattrell and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the minutes of the 8/6/13 Select Board meeting were approved unanimously as amended.*

**Discussed items for upcoming article for Heath Herald.**

**7:22 p.m. Ed Grinnell entered meeting and Sarah Hettlinger arrived shortly after.**

**Town Coordinator Report:**

1. Report of Injured Animal: Discussed the need for procedure when someone calls in to report an injured animal. Sheila shared there are numbers for assistance and some handouts.
2. Painting of Community Hall: Kara will continue to collect bids.

**Animal Control:** Opened discussion with update on Woodard dogs and status of compliance with Notice of Decision dated 3/27/13. Sarah reviewed the incident whereby a neighbor's dogs entered the property of the Woodard's. She shared that the Woodard dogs escaped unexpectedly when the neighbor's dogs were in the yard. Sarah spoke with Linda Potter regarding the matter and scheduled an inspection of the kennels for the following Monday at 10 am accompanied by Ed Grinnell. Sarah also reported that she spoke with Cathy Waldron, the owner of the dogs who entered Woodard's property. There was no complaint filed. Kathy was given a warning to keep her dogs on her property and away from the Woodard dogs. On August 12, both Ed and Sarah conducted inspection of kennels with Ron Woodard at 146 Colrain Stage Road. According to Ed, compliance with the Order is incomplete. However, Ed felt the dogs posed no threat to him. They were playful and non-aggressive. But shared that that does not mean the dogs are not a threat to others or other animals. Ed and Sarah did not see evidence of digging. They reported that the pen was a sufficient size but it did not have underground reinforcement as ordered. The second infraction was there was no roof on pen to prevent escape from above. As an alternative, Ed suggested an adequate option would be wing backs on the fencing to prevent escape. Mr. Woodard claimed he had homeowner's insurance. Ed shared that homeowner's policies will not cover for certain dog breeds including rottweiler, German shepherd or pit bull. If a person is bitten, the house can be taken. However, he said that is being challenged on the state level. Board reviewed the situation and amended the Notice of Decision based on Ed and Sarah's recommendations. The revised order includes installation of wing backs in lieu of a roof and underground reinforcement was removed because there was no evidence of digging (will be ordered if future evidence of digging), removal of insurance requirement and reiteration of original order that includes proper restraint of dogs as well as obtaining a kennel license, and a business license because he is breeding and selling puppies. Ed informed the Board that they are the Hearing Authority and can amend the original order based on ACO recommendations. Discussed enforcement options.

Also discussed other residents who own three or more dogs as well as those who still have not licensed their dogs with the Town. It is the law that the ACO can seek out unlicensed dogs and actively ask whether they are licensed or not. This is critical for public health safety. Sarah has a list from Town Clerk and will work on informing people where they can get vaccinations, etc.

Sarah made requests for equipment. Sheila will provide a first-aid kit. Discussed possible training and Sarah would like a permit for pepper spray.

Discussed how to handle calls for injured animals. Ed said that it depends on the Town and the Chief of Police. There are certain rules on the dispatching of animals with a weapon. Sarah will touch base with Margo Newton. Both were thanked for their efforts.

**9:03 p.m. Ed Grinnell left meeting and Sarah left shortly after.**

Select Board agreed that Sarah could request her full stipend in the next pay period. Kara will notify accountant.

Select Board revised letter of orders to Mr. Woodard.

**Mail/Email:**

1. Email from Tracey regarding Overlay Reconciliation
2. Email notice from FRCOG Select Board Essentials workshop
3. Email from Linda Cooper regarding CPU updated contract for Heath Post Office. Kara will forward to Charlemont and Charlene Reynolds for their input.
4. Email from Jan Ameen: Update on Escrow Funds. Town needs to provide a w-9 to Waste Management. Jan will collect and send to WM. Recycling revenue is low compared to a year ago.
5. Letter from North Heath Cemetery Corp. requesting reimbursement from 2009-2013 for mowing Town portion of North Cemetery.
6. Town Coordinator Report

**SIGNED:**

1. Letter for STRAP Grant
2. Letter to Mike Smith regarding Roads Scholar achievement
3. Warrants

**Other Business:**

- ❖ HRA Community Block Grant/Septic Loan Program: Hearings help to prioritize the list of projects for the Town. Kara will continue to work with Art on updating the Community Development Strategy. The Board would like the public hearing for input on same day as STM – October, 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Special Town Meeting Warrant Items: Kara will inquire with accountant on ACO stipend, North Heath Cemetery Corp. request for reimbursement and Grant Writer's fee for STRAP application.
- ❖ Update on Wetland Regulations: Bill shared that regulations relative to highway departments have been modified for towns. Notice of Intents can be bundled and brought before the Conservation Commission once a year and covered under one permit. Bill shared his appreciation of Mike's knowledge about the issues.
- ❖ School Committee Meeting: Board felt it went well and more support was offered than expected.

***On a motion by Bill Lattrell and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.***

Next meeting scheduled for September 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator