

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 30, 2010

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tom Lively with Sheila Litchfield in attendance. Also on hand was Jenna Day. Brian Devriese arrived at 7:15 p.m.

The warrant for Special Town Meeting (STM) was revisited and the Selectboard discussed whether it was necessary for town counsel to review a small change to the document. The Board decided it was not. The wording, "raise and appropriate" was removed from Article 10. Brian made a motion to sign the warrant as amended. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Tom and Sheila updated Brian regarding the last 3-town landfill meeting, the process for Hawley and Charlemont and the status of the Intermunicipal Agreement. They also reported on the Finance Committee's recommendations for financing Article 10 on the warrant.

The Selectboard considered a memo from the town accountant regarding overspending the winter accounts. Brian made a motion to allow the snow and ice accounts to be overspent as necessary. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

The mail was reviewed. The Board received letters of resignation from the Conservation Commission members Don Dekker and Rick Osmond. Mr. Osmond asked to remain on the board as an associate member. The Selectboard will ask Mr. Osmond to inform them when he is living in Heath and therefore available to serve on the Conservation Commission. Brian made a motion to accept both resignations from the Conservation Commission. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

7:30 p.m. Planning Board members arrived to make a presentation to the Selectboard on Smart Growth. Present: Calvin Carr, Doug Mason, Dino Schnelle and Bob Viarengo. The Planning Board was asked to research and propose a more permanent replacement to Heath's current restriction of six annual building permits. They received a State Grant through FRCOG to hire Peggy Sloan to help revise the zoning bylaws. The proposal is being reviewed by Joel Bard at Kopelman & Paige as part of the grant. The proposal includes no change in residential zoning along existing roads "new district A" and establishment of a "new rural district D" with 4 acre zoning minimums.

Brian DeVriese suggested that the Planning Board consider adding a fee for reviewing plans based either on acreage or houses. Sheila Litchfield advocated that the Planning Board meet with the Assessors to get feedback on how taxes could be affected so responses to questions along that line can be provided. The two groups considered plans for the All Boards meeting in January. All Planning Board left at 8:14 p.m.

The Selectboard evaluated the list of former appointees to the Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Committee. Brian made a motion to form a new Local Natural Hazards Committee with representation of the same town employees and board chairs as the 2007 Committee. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Jenna will inform the appointees.

The FRCOG mailed a letter to the Selectboard asking them to appoint a member to the proposed Regional Animal Control Task Force. The town coordinator will ask Chief Newton if she will serve on the committee.

The Selectboard revisited the Intermunicipal Agreement as it relates to the proposed purchase of the McCloud property and the decommissioning of the well. Brian made a motion to enter into the Intermunicipal Agreement with Charlemont and Hawley. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Tom Lively asked the Town Coordinator to contact Attorney Mark Reich for his opinion as to why the Wired West Article needs to be voted on a second time.

The Board examined a proposal from TRC to provide consulting for Whittemore Spring. Three tasks were presented: transmitting Microscopic Particle Analysis (MPA) results to DEP, developing recommendations for upgrades to the spring to mitigate surface water contamination and to assist with the two additional rounds of MPA testing and no decision was made sue to there being a warrant article included for the December 14, 2010 STM.

The Selectboard reviewed the Carpenter/Read trust fund guidelines as provided by the town accountant. They brainstormed funding for the plaque and decided that funds need to come out of the Selectboard budget to buy and maintain a perpetual plaque at Heath Elementary School.

Mike Smith emailed the Selectboard asking for assistance with the issue of electric and permanent fences that have been damaged by plowing operations. Sheila forwarded the email to Attorney Mark Reich. She read his response. Brian offered that a three rod road by definition creates town ownership 25 feet from the center of the road to the edge. Tom will discuss with Mike that he can communicate with landowners that fences too close to the edge of the road would most likely get knocked down during snow plowing operations and the town will not be responsible.

Lastly, the Selectboard considered changing transfer station hours for two Saturday holidays: Christmas and New Years Day. Brian made a motion that the transfer station open on the Monday following the holidays for a full day and on the following Wednesday for morning hours. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Warrants were signed.

Brian moved to adjourn. Tom seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenna Day, Town Coordinator