

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 7, 2010

Called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Tom Lively, Selectboard chair with Sheila Litchfield, Selectboard member in attendance. Also on hand were Town Coordinator, Jenna Day; Town Clerk, Hilma Sumner; resident landowner Dave Gott; and Andy Draxler; Franklin Land Trust representative, Alain Peteroy; and Town of Heath employee, Dohn Sherman. The agenda was reviewed. An appointment with Dohn Sherman was added to the agenda as was a review of policy guidelines for the use of town property by employees.

Alain Peteroy presented to the Selectboard the conservation restrictions for agricultural purposes as related to the Sumner property on South Road. Once the Selectboard and all local parties sign off, the documents go to the state for final review. The Conservation Commission reviewed all documents at their November meeting. The property can be sold with the restriction intact. The Selectboard examined maps detailing the restricted property. Sheila made a motion to approve the conservation restriction for the Sumner property. Tom seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Ms. Peteroy then presented the conservation restrictions for agricultural purposes as related to the Gott/Watt property on Flagg Hill Road. The Selectboard examined maps detailing the restricted property. Sheila made a motion to approve the conservation restriction for the Gott/Watt property. Tom seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

7:25 p.m. Hilma Sumner, Dave Gott and Alain Peteroy left the meeting.

The Selectboard reflected upon Heath's policy for use of town property by town employees. Jenna could not find a reference in either the personnel policy or the safety policy. She will do more research this week and report to the board. Dohn explained why his truck was at the Town Garage over the weekend. Sheila offered that the board understood the situation but the chain of command to obtain permission was not followed. Dohn was instructed as to what the chain of command is and how it should be followed for future situations.

Dohn proposed that the Selectboard review the highway crew salaries for the next fiscal year because he and the other crew members are struggling financially. He requested the board consider all options including a salary increase and/or flexible hours that allow employees to earn money from other ventures. Dohn will meet with Jenna to relay information on the policy in other towns for the highway crews. The Board informed Dohn that a thorough review of the town's salary steps was already planned for FY '12.

7:35 p.m. Dohn Sherman left the meeting. The Finance Committee entered the meeting: Jan Carr, Don Freeman, Dave Gott and Jeff Simmons.

Don Freeman recommended the Town Accountant's provisions for financing Article 10 of the Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant to the Selectboard. He will email the Selectboard with the yearly repayment obligation on the loan portion of the funding. He indicated that the Finance Committee is inclined to not recommend Articles 5 & 6. It is the Finance Committee's opinion that Whittemore Spring is a never ending project that will always require considerable funds.

Tom advocated that testing of Whittemore Spring should continue to achieve the standards set by the Department of Environmental Protection and that the next round of testing is scheduled for April, prior to the Annual Town Meeting (ATM). The Selectboard wants to take the next diagnostic step and will present this at STM.

The group examined whether Article 6 regarding a Community Hall storage shed could wait until ATM. They discussed the types of items that require storage and the town's future capacity for storage in all buildings on the common. Jan Carr offered her opinion of a conversation with Eileen Tougas in which Eileen indicated there was nothing pressing for the issue to be addressed immediately given that it is already winter. Jan relayed to Eileen that the Finance Committee was not inclined recommend this article at STM. The group proposed passing over Article 6 at this time and exploring alternative storage options.

Don Freeman then urged the Selectboard to be more communicative with the Finance Committee as to proposals that affect town spending. He asked that more information be forwarded to the Committee in advance of Selectboard meetings so they can send a representative as appropriate. The Selectboard indicated they would try to accommodate the Fin Com's request and asked Jenna to continue to forward their meeting agenda to the chair of the Finance Committee.

8:35 p.m. All Finance Committee members left the meeting. Becky Allen entered the meeting.

Becky reported on the School Committee building use policy. The fee structure is still being revised. As it now stands, town and community organizations qualify for free use of the building. The policy currently contains a clause that allows the school to charge for "considerable use of resources". The board thanked Becky for her attention to this matter. Becky left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

The Selectboard reviewed the mail, memos and emails received since their last meeting. The memo from chief Newton raised questions on the Governor's proclamation about speed limit changes near senior centers etc, and the Selectboard would like the Chief to come to their next meeting to discuss the speed limit changes and update them on police business in general.

The latest version of the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA), as it relates to the potential purchase of the McCloud property with Charlemont and Hawley, was examined. The property was misaddressed in the previous document. Sheila made a motion to enter into the revised IMA. Tom seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Jenna submitted a list of projects to the Selectboard for their review. The Selectboard will review at their next regular meeting on December 28th. Andy Draxler left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Old Business items were revisited. The Selectboard evaluated a reverse 911 proposal recommended by the Board of Health as it compared to those from other companies. The proposal from Code Red was the most reasonably priced. This vendor and system are currently being used by other towns. The Selectboard would like the Board of Health to include this in next year's budget proposal and draft a use policy for discussion with the Selectboard. Concerns include the need for clarity around the use limitations.

The Town Coordinator brought to the boards attention the matter of a number of Building Permits of questionable status in the files. Jenna will contact the building inspector's office asking to coordinate information regarding these permits..

Warrants were signed.

The following minutes were reviewed: October 26th, November 9th and November 23rd 2010. Sheila made a motion to approve all minutes with changes. Tom seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

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

Adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenna Day, Town Coordinator