

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath Finance Committee
January 5, 2016

Time: 7:02 pm

Place: Heath Free Public Library

Present: Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf, Don Freeman(chair), Jeff Simmons at 8:15, visitor Dave Howland,
and at 7:30 Sheila Litchfield, Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell, Budge Litchfield, Ken Rocke,
Deb Porter, and parents of Heath School children

Absent: Jan Carr

Copies of the following documents were available:

-Agenda (Don)

-Minutes of the November 17th meeting (Ned)

-‘Heath Education Initiative Task Force’ (Draft from Sheila)

Members read the minutes of the November 17th meeting. Don made a motion seconded by Gloria to accept the minutes with emendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Members discussed having a representative for the group being formed to consider elementary education options for Heath students. Members expressed interest in getting a clearer picture of the group’s goals and of what is involved.

At 7:28 Gloria made a motion seconded by Ned to move upstairs to join the BOS for a discussion of elementary education options for Heath students and to adjourn following that discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Heath School parent Michael Wilmeth circulated a draft of a letter to Superintendent Buoniconti and the School Committee expressing concern over proposed actions to deal with the deficit and to the manner in which such proposals have been announced. Budge explained how financial pressures different from last year have arisen. One factor has been the large number of children enrolled in free pre-school. He said that one question is whether or not this year’s budget increase can be kept below 2.5% without knocking out some basics. Sheila distributed copies of a draft of the ‘Heath Education Task Force’. Bill said that he is willing to represent the Selectboard on the Task Force whose first meeting will be at the Heath School the evening of January 7. Ken said that he and Budge will serve on the Task Force. He said that at the January 13th meeting of the School Committee he and Budge will make motions to gain access to public information about the schools and to meet with officials of the Heath and Colrain schools. Members expressed their appreciation to Gloria for her willingness to be the Finance Committee’s representative on the Task Force.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 .

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf, Secretary

