

Town of Hawley
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Hawley, MA 01339
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Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – April 26, 2016

Present: John Sears, Bob MacLean Board
Cass Nawrocki – Administrative Assistant
Virginia Gabert, Pam Shrimpton, Chris Tirone, Lark Thwing, Rick Keene, Bob and Brendan Root, Ann and Rick Falwell, Hussain Hamden, Courtney Hoyt, Elaine Thomson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Next meeting to be back on regular schedule, May 3.

- **Review and signing of treasury warrant.**
- **Review and acceptance of prior meeting minutes.** February 9, 2016 and April 5, 2016.

- **Elaine Thomson – Appointment to the Council on Aging.** At Ann Falwell's recommendation, the Selectboard appointed Elaine Thomson (present) and Sally Rich (not present) to the Council on Aging and spoke to the abilities of both women. Swearing in will occur with the Town Clerk.

- **Moderator for Annual Town Meeting, May 9.** Lark has suggested that he not moderate the Town Meeting, due to his need to be able to fully engage regarding his other town duties at the meeting. Lark has not yet contacted Scott Purinton about serving as moderator instead but he will do so shortly.

- **Report on Mass Association of Health Boards Training (MAHB).** Cass reported briefly on her recent all day training in Northampton. Introduction and history of MAHB was given by the Executive Director. Local Boards of Health are a critical part of a wider public health system – hospitals, VNAs, environmental groups. Public Health communications systems are very important. The "Principal Information Officer" in a crisis is paramount. When local BOH has issues and disputes, the Mass Department of Public Health will not intervene – a town needs to contact MAHB, in that case, for guidance. The MAHB senior staff attorney then presented various case studies for discussion.

- **DEP Grant Application through Franklin County Solid Waste Management – Hawley ‘Buy Recycled’ Policy.** Cass discussed a letter received from the Solid Waste Management District re a new DEP grant cycle. All were reminded of Hawley’s policy from 2012 to try to use recycled products.

- **Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting agenda.**
 - a. **Mountain biking in the state forest.** John reported on conversations with Jon Schaefer of Berkshire East and Mike Jester of the Department of Conservation and Recreation relative to biking in the state forest. There are 30 miles of illegal trails in the Forest. Jon wanted Hawley’s support to legalize and connect some of these trails with Berkshire East’s mountain biking trails. Jon suggested creation of a ‘local friends’ of mountain biking – somewhat like the snowmobile groups that help maintain snowmobile trails in the forest, or perhaps a chapter of the New England Mountain Biking Association – which might be self-policing, do trail building and maintenance, control the condition of trails, etc. There is broad agreement that this type of approach works. All parties need to be a part. John said that there are also concerns from an emergency management standpoint of these activities. Chris said that some of the trails – bike and snow – are the same and he would ask Matt Crowningshield of the snowmobile club to get in touch with John Sears about having a representative on the proposed friends group. Jon wants to come to a Selectboard Meeting soon.
 - b. **Mohawk Woodlands Partnership letter of support from the Select Board.** The Board will ask Greg Cox if he might draft a letter of support.
 - c. **Communications Committee – letter of support from the Select Board to the Governor regarding the Broadband status.** Lark felt it was important to send a letter and said that it’s a ‘stalling game’ for the state. Hussain said that assuming the state releases the funds in the end, quick action will be required at that time. The dates of June 2016 for design and 2018 for build are becoming a joke. Rick questioned if action by the Board might be premature, given that our own facts aren’t straight – might we need the summer to get more set? Perhaps a letter mostly to support the towns that are ready to go would be a better approach. Lark and Hussain had already drafted possible versions to use for a communication of concern. The Board asked Cass to draft the letter using whatever she could from these documents, and circulate it to the Board and Communication

Committee members for suggestions. The goal will be to bring it to the next Board meeting.

- d. Letter from the Town of Heath to the Select Boards of Hawley and Charlemont regarding the Heath Educational Initiative Task Force.** John reported that the Task Force is looking to meet with Town representatives and the Hawlemont School Community to “discuss findings” and explore mutually beneficial opportunities with other towns and the wider educational community. They are looking at cost cutting and exploring options such as talent and resource sharing. Lark said that he has seen their excellent presentation and thinks it would be beneficial to share with Charlemont and Hawley populations. Thursday evenings are best, maybe later in May. Cass will begin to pull together a possible date and should contact Charlemont first.
- e. New Massachusetts Public Records law.** Hussain has made the Selectboard aware of the issue which is before the House and Senate and has written a letter to Representative Kulik with his concerns (he gave a copy to the Board). The law primarily concerns electronic records, is quite ambiguous, and is prohibitively cumbersome for small towns such as Hawley. It would be tough, if not impossible, for us to comply with, especially given many of our residents’ lack of good internet access.
- f. Annual Town Meeting Warrant.** Virginia presented two stabilization articles which were set with unspecified amounts, due to some last minute changes. Lark stated that a special town meeting will be necessary. The two articles will be passed over at the Annual Town Meeting.
- g. Information packet for Annual Town Meeting.** Virginia is preparing a packet of information regarding the budget, school amendments, and the stretch code. The Board expressed gratitude for good work.
- h. Document storage.** Hussain said that one of the Hawlemont basement areas is dry. Cass updated the Board on her communications with the principal at Hawlemont – the principal is open to the possibility of storage there, but wants to know how much there would be. Virginia suggested perhaps 20-30 boxes and 1 or 2 4-drawer cabinets. Cass to continue to investigate.
- i. Bylaw Committee and Stretch Code.** Virginia relayed that she had constructed a summary of the Stretch Energy Code ByLaw for the Town Meeting Warrant since the article required one and such an article had not been previously drafted. There was general discussion that the town used to have a ByLaw Committee. Pam stated that the ByLaw issue has been a tangle and that it is not always clear what is or is not a ByLaw. The ByLaw State process is exacting with many

forms required and it would mean going back many many years to determine what were actually bylaws due to the Attorney General's process. She began to pursue untangling but got stymied along the way, people didn't get back to her, etc., and it has fallen by the wayside. Virginia suggested that perhaps contacting other neighboring towns to see what they have done about this issue. Pam says that new ByLaws have been submitted to the Attorney General. Hussain said that Rowe's approach was to repeal all previous actions and replace with one entirely new one. General discussion proceeded regarding pros and cons of this and if it would work. Pam is skeptical. Lark wondered if this would be a good Community Compact project.

- j. Parking area at the Town Office.** Lark says that people park 'wherever' and requests a better arrangement for parking – once an efficient scheme that works is found, he would chalk it out for testing, and then paint lines. Lark thinks there would be 14 or 13 space options. Courtney will provide the chalk.
- k. Bone Frog Challenge.** Cass has been dealing with the Bone Frog people. They once again want to close East Road, on May 21st. John wants more information before Hawley gives approval. Bob Root stated that there have been no previous problems with this event. Cass will pursue more specifics so that the Board can address at the next meeting.
- l. Road sweeping.** Lark questioned when the roads were to be swept. No one knew.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cass Nawrocki, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

John Sears

vacant

Robert MacLean

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

Town of Heath letter regarding the Heath Educational Initiative Task Force

Resolution on Last Mile Broadband Network (Draft) by Lark.

Proposed Town Meeting Resolution Pertaining to High Speed Internet (Draft) by Hussain Hamdan.

