Board of Health Meeting Minutes November 8, 2021 9:00 am via Zoom

**Call to Order**: Chairman Ron Kelter called the meeting to order. Fred Vohr, Jodi Stetson, and Franklin Regional Council of Government Representatives, Randy Crochier and Meg Ryan were also present.

**Acceptance of Minutes**: A motion was made by Fred to accept the minutes of October 12, 2021 as presented. Jodi seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Appointments**:

**Meg Ryan, FRCOG Regional Public Health Nurse** – Meg attended the meeting to discuss a Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative Program entitled: Age Friendly – Franklin County & North Quabbin Region. According to the World Health Organization, age-friendly environments foster health and well-being and the participation of people as they age. Age-friendly environments are accessible, equitable, inclusive, safe, secure, and supportive. The Program’s goal is to create communities that are designed for our aging population (housing, transportation, social participation, community support, health services, respect, social inclusion, etc.). Meg noted that the population of individuals in Franklin County that are 65 or older in Franklin County is unprecedented and the trend is predicted to continue. To participate in the Program, the Select Board must vote to participate, file an on-line application to AARP <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/> and submit a declaration/cover letter from the Select Board. There are a total of four phases to the Program: Enrollment, Assessment, and Planning & Implementation. Members of the Board of Health were extremely supportive of the Program and recommended that Meg present the information to the Select Board. Terry suggested that Meg contact the Senior Center Director, Amanda Joao and/or the Council on Aging to obtain their endorsement before meeting with the Select Board.

**Randy Crochier, FRCOG Health Agent Update** – Representatives of the Cooperative Public Health Service group continue to be busy with Title V inspections, food safety inspections, and annual license/permit renewal. The newest members of the staff have hit the ground running and are learning the ropes quickly. In Shelburne, Randy has been working with volunteers who are planning the Moonlight Magic event for November 26, 2021.

**Covid-19 Mask Mandate** – After reviewing statistics on the Massachusetts Center for Disease Control’s website, members agreed that it was appropriate to rescind Shelburne’s Mask Mandate. Randy reported that the towns of Buckland, Colrain, Conway, Gill, Heath, and Rowe still have mandates in place. Buckland’s Board of Health will meet on November 9th to discuss. Jodi presented a motion to rescind the mandate effective immediately. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Randy will prepare a written statement for immediate release noting that the Board of Health still highly recommends wearing of masks when indoors or in crowded outdoor spaces. Terry will make copies of the statement for Jodi to distribute amongst the downtown businesses.

**Unanticipated Business**: Members of the Board were saddened to hear that Marti Ferguson recently resigned from Buckland’s Board of Health. Each member expressed appreciation for Marti’s partnership and expertise while serving in Buckland. Ron will circulate a letter or a card of thanks for each member to sign.

**Meeting Schedule**: Ron will check his schedule before suggesting the Board’s next meeting date.

**Adjournment**: Jodi presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 am. Fred seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.