Board of Health Meeting Minutes February 22, 2022 9:00 am Via Zoom

**Call to Order**: Chairman, Ron Kelter open the meeting at 9:00 am. Members Fred Vohr and Joanne (Jodi) Stetson were in attendance. Other in attendance included: Randy Crochier, FRCOG Health Agent, Andrew Baker and Margaret Payne, Shelburne Select Board and Terry Narkewicz, Town Administrator

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Ron presented a motion to accept the minutes of December 20, 2021 as presented. Jodi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointments: None

Randy Crochier, FRCOG Health Agent Update: Randy reported that he met with the Mohawk Trail Regional School District on February 17, 2002 to discuss the Department of Education’s (DESE) decision to lift the mask mandate effective February 28, 2022. Town representatives served by the Cooperative Public Health Service District were also in attendance. Although no final decisions were made at this meeting, Randy requested that if Shelburne were to vote to rescind the mandate, that the effective date be March 7, 2022 to be in keeping with the Town of Buckland and to allow the School District time to notify families of their decision. Randy confirmed that despite DESE’s ruling, the MTRSD has the ability to keep the mask requirement in place until they deem it is safe to rescind.

Covid-19 Update: the number of positive Covid cases served by the Cooperative Public Health Services District area have declined since the peak that followed the Holiday season and the vaccination rate continues to increase. Fred noted that Covid is an endemic disease that is not going away and although masking has been proven to make a difference in preventing transmission, he believes it makes sense to rescind Shelburne’s mandate effective March 7, 2022. Following a brief discussion, Jodi presented a motion to rescind Shelburne’s mask mandate effective March 7, 2022. Ron seconded the motion.

Before a final vote was taken, the Chair asked for public comments. Select Board member Andrew Baker wanted to confirm that the Select Board would still have the authority to keep the mask mandate in place for town-owned buildings. Randy confirmed in the affirmative and noted that businesses have the same option. Select Board member, Margaret Payne thanked the Board of Heath for all their work. Both members felt that the Board of Health made a good decision.

After no further public comment, the Board voted unanimously to rescind the mask mandate effective March 7, 2022. Despite the vote, Randy encouraged the Board of Health to encourage the use of masks.

Opening Town Hall: Jodi asked when the Select Board might consider reopening the Town Hall to the public. Andrew indicated that he wants town employees to feel comfortable and if the downward trend in cases continues, and windows can be opened for more ventilation, the Board will revisit in the coming months. Randy indicated that the size of the building and individual office spaces makes it harder to maintain social distancing. Having public bathrooms also complicates matters with limited resources to clean them frequently.

Andrew and Margaret left the meeting at 9:20 am

Next Meeting: March 7, 2022 at 9:30 am

Adjournment: Jodi presented a motion to adjourn at 9:30 am. Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.