Board of Health Meeting Minutes March 7, 2022 9:30 am Via Zoom

Call to Order: Chair, Ron Kelter opened the meeting at 9:32 am. Members present: Fred Vohr. Joanne (Jodi) Stetson was not in attendance. Others in attendance included: Randy Crochier, FRCOG Health Agent and Terry Narkewicz, Town Administrator.

Acceptance of Minutes: Ron made a motion to accept the minutes of February 22, 2022 as presented. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Appointments: None

Randy Crochier, FRCOG Health Agent Update: Randy reported that the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards published a memorandum to local Boards of Health that address the multitude of threats received by local boards with regards to Covid-19 related mandates. The majority of the letters received demanded that Boards of Health lift mandates claiming that members were individually liable for violating a number of local, state, federal, and international laws. Terry forwarded a copy of the publication to each Board member.

The FRCOG is in conversation with the Town of Buckland with regards to establishing a remote office that is centrally located to a number of the towns in the Cooperative Public Health Services District. No decisions have been finalized.

Covid-19 Update: Randy reported that the number of cases across member towns has plummeted. The Mohawk Trail Regional School District will meet on Wednesday, March 9th to consider rescinding their mask mandate. Should they decide to rescind, masks would no longer be required as of March 14th, 2022. Buckland and Shelburne’s mask mandates expired today. The towns of Heath, Gill, and Leyden have yet to rescind their mandates however, Randy anticipates that each town will follow suit.

Re-opening Town Hall: members of the Board of Health will leave the decision to open Town Hall in the hands of the Select Board. Randy cautioned however and members agreed that it would be prudent to wait and evaluate once outside temperatures allow for window to be open for cross ventilation (perhaps May 1st). Randy noted that the width of the hallway, the size of the individual offices, and the demand for public bathrooms make Shelburne’s Town Hall unique. He also recommended that the Select Board consider whether they wish to fully open the building (which would include the theater upstairs) or limit the opening to the first floor only. Terry asked whether it made sense to segregate one bathroom for employee use only. Members of the Board of Health thought it would give employees peace of mind once opened to the public.

Other Business:

Administrative Assistance: Terry will be meeting with a Buckland resident who may be interested in serving the Board of Health in an administrative capacity. Terry has been assisting the Board since the resignation of Jennifer Morse. Despite advertising the position, she has not able to find a suitable replacement. Terry will keep Board members apprised.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: April 4, 2022 @ 9:30 am

Adjournment: Ron presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 am. Fred seconded the motion. Motion passed.