Board of Health Minutes September 8, 2021 9:30 am Zoom Meeting

Call to Order: Chairman Ron Kelter called the meeting to order. Other members present: Jodi Stetson, Fred Vohr, FRCOG Health Agent, Randy Crochier, and Town Administrator, Terry Narkewicz.

Acceptance of Minutes: Jodi presented a motion to accept the meeting minutes of August 2, 2021 as presented. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Health Agent Update: the Cooperative Public Health Service District advertised the third Health Agent position and Randy reported that a fair number of resumes were received. Both the Community Health Educator and the District’s newest nurse will begin work in mid-October. The nurse will be partnering with Life Path to promote Healthy Aging. In the meantime, the District has been very busy with Title V, food inspections, and housing cases.

Covid-19 Update: Presently there are fourteen (14) positive cases in neighboring communities (Ashfield, Bernardston, Charlemont, Deerfield, Erving, Heath, Northfield, and one in Shelburne). Given the rise in cases, members of the Board of Health agreed that it made sense to follow CDC guidelines and mandate a policy that requires individuals to wear a mask or other face coverings in public indoor spaces in the Town of Shelburne. Several communities have already begun enforcing a similar policy as masks have been proven to slow the spread of Covid-19. Residents Jackie Walsh and William Siebert spoke in favor of the proposed mandate. Marti-Taft Ferguson representing Buckland’s Board of Health indicated that there has been some pushback regarding Buckland’s decision to enforce the same mandate but agreed that it makes sense to enforce masks inside public places. Following the discussion, Jodi presented a motion to adopt the Mask Mandate effective September 9, 2021. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Randy Crochier will sign the adopted Mandate and distribute to local businesses via email. Terry will also update the town’s website.

Pop-Up Covid Vaccination Clinic – the FRCOG’s Cooperative Public Health Service District sponsored a vaccination clinic last Saturday at the Charlemont/Shelburne transfer station between the hours of 10am and 2pm. A total of nine individuals opted to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Jackie Walsh encouraged the group to host more of these “pop up” events with the hopes that more people will get vaccinated.

Any Other Business:

Marti Taft-Ferguson asked members of the Shelburne Board of Health if they would be interested in partnering with Buckland’s Board of Health to apply to MassDEP’s “Air Sensor” Grant Program. If successful, municipalities would receive between five and ten PurpleAir sensors to measures levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in their communities’ outdoor air for at least one year (Wi-Fi and electricity are needed at each sensor location). Applications are due by October 1, 2021. Randy Crochier forwarded relevant materials to each Board of Health member. If interested in participating, Ron Kelter will reach out to Marti as soon as possible.

Next Meeting: - The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 9:30 am.

Adjournment: Jodi presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 am. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.