Board of Health December 20, 2021 9:30 am via Zoom

Call to Order: Ron Kelter called the meeting to order. Others in attendance: Joanne Stetson and Fred Vohr (who joined the meeting late).

Acceptance of Minutes: Joanne presented a motion to accept the November 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Appointments: None

FRCOG Health Agent Update: Randy Crochier is away on vacation.

COVID 19 Update: Ron reported that he and Fred attended the FRCOG’s Community Public Health Services meeting last week and much of the discussion was focused on the rising number of Covid cases in our area. The FRCOG intends to notify member towns of their confirmed case numbers on a more frequent basis. Additionally, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is distributing over the counter rapid antigen test kits to 102 “high-need” communities. Shelburne is not on the list. Members of the Board of Health briefly discussed whether Shelburne should purchase test kits at state-negotiated prices but Joanne felt that the Christmas Holiday surge will have already taken place before test kits are available and they are available at local drug stores.

It is apparent that Covid-19 is going to be around for the foreseeable future. The virus is transmitted through droplet, aerosol, and close contact settings. Members were in agreement that masks are “highly” recommended as a means of stopping the spread of Covid-19 however, they were not in favor of reinstituting a mask mandate. Instead, Ron recommended that the Board reach out to the FRCOG to see if they have mask-related signage that does not include the verbiage “per Board of Health” that businesses could post should they choose to require masks. Once obtained, members will work together to distribute the signage throughout the downtown.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Jacqui Goodman indicated that while she understands why the Board of Health does not want to continually institute and rescind a mask mandate, she is concerned with the rising numbers. Until the Board of Health mandates masks, she believes that it will be a waste of their time going from one business to another with posters that recommend masks. She is concerned with the businesses in town that are not requiring their employees to wear masks. She believes that when the “mandate” was in effect, it did make a difference.

Adjournment: Ron presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 am. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.