Board of Health Meeting Minutes June 6, 2022 9:30 am Via Zoom

Call to Order: Chair, Ron Kelter opened the meeting at 9:30 am. Members present: Fred Vohr. Joanne (Jody) Stetson was absent. Others in attendance included: Terry Narkewicz, Town Administrator and FRCOG Representatives: Randy Crochier.

Acceptance of Minutes: Ron made a motion to accept the minutes of May 2, 2022 as presented. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments: None

Randy Crochier RE: FRCOG Health Agent Update:

Arrowhead Shops Septic System: Randy reported that he met with Christonfer Cruz, owner of Posada last week to discuss the current septic system. The restaurant is using roughly 1,000 gallons of water daily on a system designed for 400 gallons of water daily. As a result, the leach field is failing. Following that discussion, Christonfer would like to move forward with a percolation test with the hopes of seeking a disposal works permit for construction of a new system that would accommodate approximately 70 seats (the restaurant is currently permitted for 35 seats). Randy reported that there is new technology that he has asked the Engineer to explore.

Other Activity: Working with Camp Apex to inspect the site and review medical protocol before the summer season begins. There is a new mobile pizza business on the Mohawk Trail (at the former Duck Pond site). Staff has been busy with percolation tests, septic installations, and Title V inspections.

Covid-19 Update: Although the weekly report has yet to be published, Randy believes that the number of Covid cases is relatively low. The temporary mask mandate at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School was rescinded on Saturday, June 4, 2022.

Other Business:

Revised Cease & Desist Order for Tobacco Control – In June, 2020 a new state tobacco law, “An Act to Modernize Tobacco Control” and state regulations (105 CMR 665.000) took effect. Along with higher state fines, which are payable to the municipality, the regulations state that if the first violation is a sale to a person under the age of 21, the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended. Local Boards of Health’s have the discretion to decide how many days the permit suspension will be. Before taking any action, Randy recommended that the Board of Health review their current tobacco regulations to see if additional changes should be implemented to coincide with the State’s regulations. Members can review the local regulations on the town’s website and Randy will provide them with a copy of the State’s regulations for comparison.

Site Visits/Inspections: Chair Ron Kelter would like to accompany the FRCOG Health Agents when conducting local inspections so to experience first-hand the work involved while in the “field”. Randy indicated that he would email Board of Health members in advance of a scheduled food or septic inspection.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment:

Leighann Bardwell called to ask a few questions regarding the recent mask mandate implemented at the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School. Her questions were relative to the criteria used when making the decision to reinstate masks. Chair, Ron Kelter reminded Leighann that the purpose of the public comment segment of the meeting was for individuals to make comments rather than conduct a question/answer period. Ron asked her to summarize her comments. Leighann stated that she had prior conversations with Randy Crochier, Superintendent, Sheryl Stanton, and Ron Kelter and no one was unable to answer her questions. Her overall message to the Board was that instituting a mask mandate should be directly related to a high number of Covid cases and not based on assumptions or “other” illnesses. She is concerned with the affects that masks are having on children particularly those with learning deficiencies.

Next Meeting: A date was not determined

Adjournment: Ron presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 am. Fred seconded the motion. Motion passed.