

**Buckland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2021 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Via Zoom**

Agenda

- I. Open the Meeting.
- II. BOH Resignation.
- III. Allocation of Board functions and tasks; elect interim chair.
- IV. Review/approve minutes.
- V. Health Agent Report: Randy Crochier or Lisa Danek Burke.
- VI. COVID-19:
 - A. Cases, updates.
 - B. Other issues; regs/guidance.
- VII. Mask Mandate - review/vote as needed.
- VIII. Review/process mail - someone will collect from Town Hall.
- IX. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chairman 48 hours prior to meeting.
- X. Public Comment.
- XI. Adjourn the meeting.

Attendees

Peggy Hart - Board of Health Member
 Dean Singer - Board of Health Member
 Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk
 Randy Crochier - FRCOG Health Agent
 Meg Ryan - FRCOG Public Health Nurse
 Douglas Smith - Resident
 Paul Bernier - Resident

Meeting

- I. Open the meeting - Meeting was opened by Peggy Hart at 6:43 p.m.
- II. BOH Resignation -
 - A. Marti Taft Ferguson, Board of Health Chair, has submitted her resignation since the October meeting. The Select Board will appoint an interim member at their next meeting.
 - B. In the absence of a chairperson, Dean Singer nominated Peggy Hart to chair this meeting. Peggy seconded the nomination. Vote in favor of the nomination/ motion: Singer, yes; Hart, yes.
- III. Allocation of Board functions and tasks; elect intern chair - This agenda item will be addressed at the next BOH meeting when the appointed interim member will be present. Peggy and Dean reported on the current status of voicemail, email, and U.S. Postal Service mail to ensure all are being monitored.
- IV. Review/Approve minutes - Members reviewed minutes. Peggy suggested one edit and moved to accept with that edit, seconded by Dean. Vote in favor of motion: Hart, yes; Singer, yes.

V. Health Agent Report -

- A. Randy Crochier reported that overall the Health Agents' schedules have been busy with over 70 Title V applications since July. Peggy asked how 70+ applications compares to previous years. Randy responded that two years ago, 40 would have been considered a sizable amount.
- B. Two new employees have been hired by FRCOG and are now on board getting up to speed on their appointed duties.
- C. Public Health nurses have finished conducting flu clinics but are still available for small groups and shut-ins.
- D. COVID-19 still continues to consume much time and effort on the part of the public health nurses and health agents in addition to their many non-COVID responsibilities.

VI. COVID-19 -

- A. Meg Ryan, FRCOG Public Health Nurse, reported that the number of cases is increasing, thus ramping up tracing efforts and oversight by CPHS staff. The plateau is over, and the numbers for community transmission are back up to "high". She cited current statistics per 100 thousand and compared them to earlier in the season. Also, Ms. Ryan reported that of 6 cases in Buckland whose quarantine would be ending November 14, 2 were vaccinated, 1 unvaccinated, 2 ineligible for vaccine, and 1 partially vaccinated.
- B. Ms. Ryan reported that being vaccinated is the best defense against COVID-19. Although the vaccinated can still contract and transmit the virus, they are statistically less sick and the number of vaccinated patients hospitalized is very low compared to unvaccinated patients. Peggy inquired about the local schedule of the Vax Bus, followed by a short discussion regarding that vaccination option.

VII. Mask Mandate - review/vote as needed.

- A. Board discussion regarding mask mandate included the fact that numbers are increasing which supports extending the mandate, while recognizing that Shelburne, just across the river, currently has no mandate. Since there is not enforcement, is it effective? However, masks are required in the school system and it seems wise to sync town masking protocols with those of the school system. Following discussion, it was decided to extend the mask mandate another month and revisit at December meeting.

VIII. Review/process mail; someone will collect from Town Hall.

- A. Correspondence was received from National Grid regarding herbicide spraying; the Planning Board forwarded an FYI for a prospective solar array; and on voicemail, one complaint was received reporting a sewage odor.
- B. An email was received from the Friends of the Buckland Rec regarding a craft fair to be held upstairs in Town Hall the night of Moonlight Magic. The organizers were asking for any guidance the Board of Health may have to offer. Randy Crochier stated that it will not be any more crowded than any other area of the Village that evening. Peggy Hart added that masks should be mandated and social distancing recommended.

IX. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours prior to the meeting - There were no unanticipated items.

X. Public Comment -

- A. Paul Bernier stated that he was disappointed in the Board's decision to continue the mask mandate instead of changing it to a masking recommendation. He made reference to Mr. Hugo's presentation at a previous meeting stating that masking posters be updated with exemptions for masking and asked why all posters were not yet updated. He stated that there should be proof of masking efficacy readily available to residents.
 - B. Doug Smith agreed with statements made by Paul Bernier and expressed his displeasure with the Board on several issues. Dean Singer referred him to the police department regarding some of his concerns stating that Peggy and Dean were not on the Board when the events occurred.
- XI. Adjourn the meeting - With no further business, Dean moved to adjourn seconded by Peggy. Vote in favor of motion: Hart, yes; Singer, yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, December 21, 2021

Peggy Hart