

**Buckland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2022 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Via Zoom**

45

Agenda

- I. Open the meeting.
- II. Review/approve minutes.
- III. Health Agent Report; Randy Crochier or Lisa Danek Burke.
- IV. COVID-19:
 - A. Cases, updates.
 - B. Other issues; regs/guidance.
 1. Make recommendation about opening Town Hall and also guidance to boards and committees.
- V. Mask Mandate - review/vote as needed.
- VI. Review/process mail; someone will collect from Town Hall.
- VII. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chair 48 hours prior to meeting.
- VIII. Public Comment.
- IX. Adjourn the meeting.

Attendees

Peggy Hart - Board of Health Chair
 Terry Estes - Board of Health Member
 Dean Singer - Board of Health Member
 Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk
 Randy Crochier - Health Agent, FRCOG
 Timothy Bohonowicz - Buckland Resident

Meeting

- I. Open the meeting - Peggy Hart opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m.
- II. Review/approve minutes - Board members reviewed December 2021 and January 2022 minutes. Terry Estes moved to approve, seconded by Dean Singer. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.
- III. Health Agent Report, given by Randy Crochier -
 - A. Randy reported that it had been a relatively quiet month regarding permits except for renewals. One septic permit had been submitted but was withdrawn, and work is being done to address Short Term Rentals.
 - B. A review is required regarding the new pool, building, and septic system at the Buckland Recreation Area. To comply with grant guidelines, work must begin at the Rec before the end of June 2022.
 - C. There was a walk through at the Buckland Police Station relative to the proposed satellite office. Lisa Danek Burke and Randy Crochier will also tour the facility.
- IV. COVID-19:
 - A. Cases; updates. Current Buckland case numbers were reported in addition to those for the previous week.

B. Other issues; regs/guidance -

1. Make recommendation for opening Town Hall and also guidance to boards and committees.
 - a) Brief Board discussion followed on Town Hall with Terry stating as of March 1, masking still applies to anyone entering that building. Dean is not opposed to opening Town Hall providing staff agrees. The BOH does not need to vote on opening Town Hall, they are only giving their recommendation. Voting is the responsibility of the Select Board.
 - b) Regarding board and committee meetings, Randy cited the example of Gill whose town hall was not closed and their Select Board meets in person. Board discussion continued focusing on schools and the school committee. DESE has lifted their mask mandate, but schools must comply with town orders. Collaboration among towns and boards within towns was discussed in an effort to give school committees time to meet and to arrive at uniformity throughout the district. It was emphasized that Mohawk is physically in Buckland but has students from other towns, while BSE is located in Shelburne but includes Buckland students. Only Buckland's BOH will affect Mohawk and the Shelburne BOH will be the only one to impact BSE. Randy will work with the towns to collaborate.

V. Mask Mandate; review/vote as needed - Board discussion included but was not limited to:

- A. Members entertained changing from a mandate to a recommendation, with Terry suggesting that a specific date be chosen so people have time to adjust. Randy suggested March 7 which would allow schools to be back in session for a week following vacation. Peggy Hart stated that the terms should be *starting March 7, 2022 the current mandate for face coverings in indoor settings open to the public will be changed to a recommendation "if the trend continues toward a risk level of substantial in Franklin County per the CDC's risk level of community transmission."* Dean Singer so moved, seconded by Terry Estes. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

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

- A. Dean reported on email. Heather Butler had forwarded a consumer confidence report to the Board. Also the town received seven air quality sensors as part of a grant. The question was posed about where to place them, but Peggy stated she would take the matter back to Heather to ask who determines the placement.
- B. Peggy reported information regarding oaths of office and security bonds had been received. Randy wants them forwarded to him for review.
- C. Terry reported pumping reports and magazines in the USPS mail.
- D. Peggy reported the availability of a tobacco training video and asked if the Board felt they should reach out to local purveyors of tobacco products. Randy responded that the Board can decide whether or not to offer the video, then merchants can respond if interested. FRCOG will follow through.
- E. Peggy reported a phone inquiry regarding a home for sale on Ashfield Street. The caller asked about water and sewer services, public or private. Terry

responded that if on Ashfield Street, the property should be on town water and sewer vs well and septic system. Peggy will follow through.

VII. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chair 48 hours prior to meeting - There were no items within 48 hours.

VIII. Public Comment - Timothy Bohonowicz commended Maureen of FRCOG on an excellent job communicating with his family through their COVID experience in November 2021. Randy responded that was her first month on the job and she has only improved since. Mr. Bohonowicz commented that he observed some businesses displaying masking posters without stipulating medical exemptions, and asked Randy what his (Randy's) job and that of the BOH is to inform/advise businesses regarding medical exemptions/masking. Randy responded that he would listen but advise the business and patron to seek the advice of an attorney because it is a legal question. Mr. Bohonowicz stated that he would like to see the mask mandate removed.

IX. With no further business, Terry Estes moved to adjourn, seconded by Dean Singer. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, March 17, 2022

Peggy Hunt
Terry Estes