

75

Town of Buckland Board of Health
Meeting April 21, 2022
Held via Zoom
Minutes

Agenda:

1. Open the meeting.
2. Review/approve minutes
3. Health Agent Report
4. COVID-19:
 - Cases, updates.
 - Other issues – regs/guidance
5. Update on the Attorney General's Neighborhood Renewal Program
6. BOH regulations- Discuss and update
7. Review/process mail
8. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chairman 48 hours prior to meeting
9. Public Comment
10. Adjourn the meeting

Attendees

Peggy Hart, Chair PH
Dean Singer, Member
Lisa Danek Burke, Health Agent, FRCOG
Meg Ryan, Public Health Nurse, FRCOG
Jonathan Mirin, 224 Avery Brook Rd., Charlemont, public

Chair Peggy Hart opened the meeting at 4:05.

Minutes of the March 17, 2022 meeting were reviewed. There was one edit: Item 6, "input for all groups" should read "input from all groups." With this edit, Member Dean Singer moved to approve the minutes; Peggy seconded; on a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

Board of Health Regulations - with the upcoming Town Elections on May 3rd (Town Hall) and Town Meeting on May 7th (Mohawk Regional School auditorium), both anticipated to be in-person, indoor events, the Board of Health has been asked by the Town Moderator to make recommendations re: masking. Dean made a recommendation for participants in both events to wear masks, and observe 6' social distancing; essentially nothing stronger than the current guidance. Peggy agreed, and will pass the information to the Town Moderator and Town Clerk.

Health Agent Report -

Re: COVID Update

- Lisa Danek Burke and Meg Ryan reported on the most recent numbers of positive cases of COVID for Buckland: 5 in the current week, and 8 the previous week. There has been an observable spike in the last two weeks. Though FRCOG is following state guidance on contact tracing, it is likely that many of the cases are not being reported. Health Agents are focused on fielding information and concerns, and promoting vaccine clinic dates, 15 of which are coming to the Buckland area in the next month (Megan or Lisa will send the vaccine schedule to Peggy, who will see that it is posted on the Town's website).
- Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School experienced a bit of spike in cases; health agents have been working with Superintendent Sheryl Stanton and Nurse Leader Donna Weber on putting the mask mandate back in place with the goal to keep the school open. This action seemed to help the (reported) numbers.

Re: Neighborhood Renewal Program (formerly Abandoned Housing Program) - this program works with receivers (who hold a lien on the property) to bring derelict properties back onto the tax rolls. Health Agents are currently working with the Town of Buckland on 89 State Street, which is also in foreclosure, and 27 Sears Street, which is being researched as to who actually owns the property so it can be secured. Questions about this program can be directed to Randy Crochier, Program Manager and Health Agent, FRCOG.

Re: Other FRGOG Health Agent work in Buckland - there's been an uptick in requests for perk tests due to anticipated new construction as well as failed septic systems. Also, FRCOG performed a Title 5 inspection of the existing septic system for the Buckland Recreation area, which passed, and is now reviewing the septic and pool proposed for the new pool complex. This is a significantly sized project, and all three health agents will be working on it. As the Town is hoping the project will be ready for bid in May, FRCOG is working closely with the town in order to not delay the process.

Re: Processing Mail

- No voicemail
- Terry checked postal mail
- There was one email regarding an event on May 7, which should be forwarded to Heather Butler, Town Administrator

Public Comment -

Jonathan Mirin of Charlemont spoke in regard to the cell tower application currently being considered by the Town's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Mirin referenced a cease and desist order to Verizon in Pittsfield, Massachusetts due to health concerns connected to a cell tower, and would like to address more about the health

consequences of cell towers with the Board of Health at a meeting in the future. Chair Peggy Hart suggested Mr. Mirin send an email to be added to the agenda for a future meeting if he would like to make a presentation to the board at a meeting in the future.

At 4:38, Dean moved to adjourn the meeting; Peggy seconded the motion; on a roll call vote, all voted in favor.