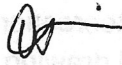



May 19, 2022

Buckland Board of Health Meeting

Via Zoom

Agenda:

1. Open the meeting.
2. Welcome new member, Carmela Lanza-Weil 
3. Reorganize- elect chair and allocate tasks
4. Review/approve minutes
5. Health Agent Report: Kurt in place of Randy C
6. COVID-19: Cases, updates, regs/guidance
7. Alternative Mosquito Control application- review
8. Herbicide Spraying along Pan Am right of way
9. Review/process mail – someone will collect from Town Hall.
10. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chairman 48 hours prior to meeting
11. Public Comment
12. Adjourn the meeting

Attendees: Peggy Hart, Chair 
Carmela Lanza-Weil, Member
Kurt Schellenberg, FRGOG Health Agent

1. Chair Peggy Hart opened the meeting at 5:31 pm
2. New BOH member, Carmela Lanza-Weil, was welcomed.
3. Reorganize - elect chair and allocate tasks
 - a. New chair conversation delayed until the full Board is available
 - b. Tasks allocated:
 - i. Dean - monitor email communication
 - ii. Peggy - monitor voice mail communication
 - iii. Carmela - collect and review postal mail at Town Hall
Question: how to get relevant mail to FRCOG nurses - possible to deliver it to the Senior Center as the nurses go there regularly? In the future, FRCOG nurses may have an office in Buckland, and mail might be delivered there. At this point, encourage Town Administrator to create designated mailbox at Town Hall..
4. Review/approve minutes - deferred until Dean is present
5. Health Agent Report - Kurt Schellenberg report
 - a. Process of creating office for new nurses' office at the Buckland Police Station slower than everyone would like, but possibly by July

- b. Health Agents have been very busy
 - i. Food safety course for restaurants - about 50 trained in the last few weeks - food service workers certified
 - ii. Recreational camps - documentation required for stranger safety, fire safety, water safety, etc. Buckland has one such facility: Red Gate Farm.
 - iii. Title 5 seminar attended by FRGOG staff, which is required for continued certification
 - iv. Buckland Recreation Center pool project - FRCOG staff reviewing mechanical drawing, and in a first review identified some missing information needed from the designer
 - v. June 11th workshop of the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards to be held in Holyoke for BOH members and health agents, covering important issues such as electing and appointing members; open meetings laws; procedures; authority, etc. Kurt will send info to the Buckland BOH. Question: will it be offered annually? Not sure.
 - vi. Massachusetts Attorney General Office's receivership program
 - 1. 27 Sears St. - abandoned for some time, orders have been submitted, including an order of violation to the owner
 - 2. 89 State St. - further along in the process
Question: how do these properties come to FRCOG's attention?
By complaints
 - 3. BOH received a voicemail re: 1B Cross St. - BOH question about what's happening there
 - a. FRCOG: Possible hazard, fumes of diesel and kerosene reported; notice given, 30 days to address issues. Ideal for owner to fix, or sell it.
 - b. BOH: Owner out of house for about two years, in a nursing home, and has no resources to address issues of deferred maintenance. Voicemail received, no number left - BOH will try to track phone number, make contact, and connect to Kurt.

6. COVID-19: Cases, updates, regs/guidance

- a. Recommendation from nurses to extend mask mandate at Mohawk Regional School until May 27th, or end of the school year. BOH not required to vote, encouraged to discuss. At the peak of the Omicron variant, the school was getting close to 9% positivity rate. Question: who makes the decision for a school district? FRCOG can act on the BOH's behalf; this is what happened in the past when there wasn't time for the BOH to meet and respond. Effort is to try to keep the schools open. Recommendation: keep the mask mandate to at least May 27th.
- b. What about an indoor mask mandate? FRCOG: at this point, this is challenging for any town to do on its own; best to try to work regionally.

- c. Proposed new testing site at the Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Bridge Street. No detailed information yet available.
- d. Testing has resumed at Greenfield Community College, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 1:00 - 4:00. Information will be posted to the Buckland Town website, just as vaccine clinics are posted.
- e. Home test kits are increasingly available, for free; FRCOG is looking into distributing them at local food pantries.

7. Alternative Mosquito Control application - review

- a. Last year, Massachusetts was going to do aerial spraying for Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE). If towns didn't want this treatment, they could submit an alternative plan. Over the last year, the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District has tracked data, showing that Buckland is in a low incidence area.
- b. Buckland needs to submit a new plan by May 27th; the Select Board voted affirmatively to submit the plan. Question: who submits the application? To be submitted by Heather Butler, Town Clerk, certifying that the Select Board passed the application at a public meeting.
- c. Comments from Kurt in regard to an alternative plan: this can include an application of something that is not a chemical treatment, such as BT used in catch basins. This is non-toxic, and only affects the mosquito larva. There are a number of "hoops" to jump through to utilize this option, and won't be available this year. Question: would the highway crew do this? FRCOG would train and supervise the highway crew. Kurt will continue to update on this.

8. Herbicide Spraying along Pan Am right of way

- a. BOH received notice that Pan Am Railroad will be spraying a herbicide along their right-of-way.
- b. Chair Hart contacted Terry Estes who had followed this issue closely in past years. This is under federal jurisdiction, with no local control, even though the material used is toxic and should not be sprayed close to waterways. Mr. Estes followed the issue to the relevant office in Washington DC, which confirmed that there was nothing a local municipality could do. Pan Am offered Mr. Estes the opportunity to "ride along" on the vehicle spraying the substance, but subsequently "forgot" to notify him of the date.
- c. For those expressing concern about this, BOH will make sure any letter will get to the right individual.

9. Review/process mail – someone will collect from Town Hall

- a. No emails
- b. Voice mail - Patricia Phillips (reported earlier); question regarding 155 E. Buckland Rd./Title 5 - will be referred to Kurt; Renaissance Builders, question regarding proper building permits for addition at 7 Charlemont Rd., to be referred to FCCIP/inspection program
- c. Postal mail - not yet collected

10. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chairman 48 hours prior to meeting
Discussion of future meeting dates and times to accommodate members' schedules in process.

11. Public Comment - no public in attendance

12. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

Documents referenced:

Mohawk Trail and MTRSD COVID cases by week Dec 21 thru May 22, 2022
Alternative Mosquito Management Plan