

July 21, 2022

Buckland Town Hall

Agenda:

1. Open the meeting.
2. Reorganize - elect chair and allocate tasks
3. Review/approve minutes for April and May meetings
4. Health Agent Report:
 - Hearing to determine whether dwelling at 27 Sears St is unfit for human habitation
 - Hearing to determine whether dwelling at 12 Gardner Falls is unfit for human habitation
 - Hearing to determine whether dwelling at 89 State is unfit for human habitation
5. COVID-19: Cases, updates., regs/guidance
6. Alternative Mosquito Control application - review
7. Single Use Plastic bylaw - review and discussion
8. Review/process mail – someone will collect from Town Hall.
9. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chairman 48 hours prior to meeting
10. Public Comment.
11. Adjourn the meeting.

Attendees

Peggy Hart, Chair

Dean Singer, member

Carmela Lanza-Weil, member

Kurt Schellenberg, FRCOG

Peggy Hart 11/4/23

1.1.23

1. Open the meeting
Chair Peggy Hart opened the meeting at 5:01 pm
2. Reorganize- elect chair and allocate tasks
The following decisions were made:
 - Meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm, in person, at Town Hall
 - Member Carmela Lanza-Weil moved, and member Dean Singer seconded, a motion to appoint Peggy Hart as chair; all in favor, motion passed.
 - Other meetings: member Lanza-Weil will attend the Oversight Board meetings hosted by FRCOG on the 4th Thursday, 5:00 - 7:00 pm of each month; chair Hart will attend the Roundtable, also hosted by FRGOG, on the 4th Monday, 4:00 - 5:00 pm of each month
 - The board will continue the same task assignments for phone, email and postal mail

3. Review/approve minutes for April and May meetings

Chair Hart moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting attended as well by member Singer; minutes approved.

Chair Hart moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting attended as well by member Lanza-Weil; minutes approved.

4. Health Agent Report

Kurt Schellenberg of FRCOG reported the following:

- Re: mosquito testing - so far, only one mosquito in the state has tested positive for any human-impact disease, and that was not in the western part of the state. BH asked: is the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District testing integrated with the testing the state is doing? Mr. Schellenberg will look into this. Chair Hart noted that the agreement the Town of Buckland signed joining the PVMCD means the town is accountable to its residents for appropriate protocols and actions.
- FRCOG Health Agents attended a retreat on July 19th, with an objective to recommit to the agency's mission
- Shelburne Farm and Garden (Town of Shelburne) has submitted an application to be a food establishment
- FRCOG Health Agents continue to be busy with summer camps
- Concerning the Attorney General's Abandoned properties/receivership program:
 - 12 Gardners Falls Rd. was purchased in July, 2021, and is now off the list
 - 27 Sears St. has not moved forward, and it would be a help if a condemnation order were issued by the Board of Health; Randy Crochier (of FRCOG) can be of assistance
 - 89 State St. is on the market; a sale would be the best possible option
 - 1B Cross St. - there is no new information since Chair Hart left a voice mail message; Mr. Schellenberg to follow up.
- BH asked about monkeypox; Mr. Schellenberg replied this is under discussion at the FRCOG office, and will soon have guidance available.

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

Buckland cases haven't been rising substantially since the conclusion of the school year. Mr. Schellenberg noted that, in the weekly FRCOG report, cases have both slightly risen and fallen, but their numbers do not include the results of home tests. Masks, though recommended, are not likely to be required again. The new variant is proving to be highly contagious.

6. Alternative Mosquito Control application - review

The Alternative Mosquito Control Application was accepted; there are now related tasks for the Board of Health, including

- checking for standing water, particularly at garages (tires) and farms (5 gallon buckets, etc.)
- canvassing and education for the public
- as the summer has been so dry, the number of mosquitos has been reduced

The Board will review the May application for guidance on accomplishing these tasks.

7. Single Use Plastic bylaw - review and discussion

Chair Hart noted that the town's single use plastic bylaw was voted on before she had joined the Board of Health, and she was unaware that Section 5 assigns the Board of Health enforcement responsibilities. Mr. Schellenger expressed curiosity about how those exempt from the ordinance became exempt.

The Board explored what "store by store" enforcement would look like for the following establishments which serve food, including take out: Mo's, McCusker's, Blue Rock (all of who appear to be doing a good job); Buckland Pizza (recently improved); Eagles, Neighbors and West End Pub.

The Board will talk with someone within the town administration who was part of the process of creating the bylaw; inquire how the Board of Health was given responsibility for enforcement; and ask about mechanisms for warnings and fines. The Board asked Mr. Schellenberg to investigate if other towns in the county passed similar ordinances, and if so, what are their practices for enforcement? Chair Hart will respond to Phoebe Walker.

8. Review/process mail

Member Lanza-Weil distributed postal mail, including a pumping report for a wastewater/septic system, and a report about a bat bite to a cat. Question about where to file reports.

Member Lanze-Weil asked if it would be possible to use the report on the town's population to create a list of elderly residents who need to be checked on, especially in extreme heat. Perhaps the Board of Health could create the list, and find a partner organization to do the check-ins? Would the Senior Center be the right partner? It was noted that Meg Ryan at FRCOG would be a good contact to investigate this more fully.

The FRCOG satellite site being developed in Buckland is moving faster than expected, but no definite move-in date has been established.

Member Singer asked what's going on with the south walkway/sidewalk on the iron bridge? No action seems to be happening.

9. Any other items not reasonably anticipated by Chairman 48 hours prior to Meeting
There were none.
10. Public Comment
There were no public comments.
11. Member Lanze-Weil moved to adjourn the meeting; member Singer seconded; all voted in favor; meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Documents Referenced

- Town of Buckland Bylaws, CHAPTER XV Single Use Plastics (Adopted ATM 5/8/2019)
- Alternative Mosquito Management Plan

Respectfully submitted, Alison Cornish , Board Clerk