Minutes of the Foothills Health District Board held via Zoom on January 14, 2022

Attendance: Becky Jones, Mike Kurland, Tom Martin, Helen Symons, Mark Bushee, Donna Gibson, Robby Armenti, Fran Fortino

The meeting was called to order by Tom Martin at 10:05 AM.

The minutes of 12/31/21 were unanimously approved as written after a motion and second.

The Budget was discussed. It was decided that we will continue to use the new Federal census data at this point. We should tweak the bylaws to reflect which census is to be used. The budget was revised slightly to align with the PHEP budget. The budget was passed unanimously as proposed.

Tom Martin mentioned that there was a request from Williamsburg to retroactively pay the $200/month rent going back to the beginning of the current fiscal year. The FHD Board had originally approved payment from January 2022. After discussion, TM made a motion to have the FHD pay the 6 months retroactive rent ($1200) back to July 1, 2021. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Personnel Subcommittee reported that it accepted the resignation of Alex White and that he should be paid for his 2 weeks vacation (20 hours). A motion was proposed to pay Alex through January 7th for his work as well as his vacation pay. Motion was passed unanimously. There was discussion of the inspector position search. It has been posted in the Gazette, Recorder, MAHB, MHOA, Western Mass PH Association. The Personnel Committee will interview candidates and make recommendations to the Board. A motion was made to include Mike Kurland as a member of the Personnel Committee. It was passed unanimously.

MB reported that online permitting implementation was going well. He clarified that Janet is currently working T, W, and Th from 8-3. He noted that septic inspections were slowing down. There was a discussion of the need to keep the office locked when it is not staffed due to privacy and confidentiality concerns despite the fact that entrance to the bathroom is through the FHD office. This will be communicated to the Williamsburg administration.

There was a lengthy conversation about procuring rapid antigen test kits. There are many pros and cons. FF agreed to look up the feasibility of procuring $5 tests.

COVID case numbers were discussed. It was agreed that posted numbers by the State are only the tip of the iceberg so real case numbers are extremely difficult to determine. Also the zip code issue is still a major problem. Cases were reported as follows: WH- 14 cases. Williamsburg- 8. Goshen- ?. Whately- ?

FF reported that Whately received rapid test kits from the State and is administering the tests. Also they are hoping to get the vax bus out to farms.

Next meeting is January 28, 2022 at 10 AM. Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Minutes submitted by Mike Kurland.