



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2022

7:30 PM.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

Virtual Members Present: William McInnis, Mark Conoby, Joanne Bissetta, Dr. William Taylor and Michael Kreuze (arrived late)

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Singh voting for Michael Kreuze and Dr. Jacoby

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director, Heather York- Nursing Administrator

Others Present: J. Bellissimo, Jill Salamon, Mary Lynn Miller, Eva Szkardak, Corrine Hogseth, Nancy C, Linda Vierian, Leela Ramachandra, Theresa O'Leary, Zach Sundberg, Kristen Musick and a call in user.

1. Opening

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. A script was read that was provided by the Town stating why the meetings are virtual during this pandemic and this emergency meeting of the Board of Health was called to order.

2. Regular Business

Health Director Update

Ms. Ball stated the current cases in the State of Massachusetts as of yesterday are, 16,621 which brings the State's case count to over 1 million. There are currently 2,372 hospitalized with 441 in ICU. The highest group of positive cases is the 20-29 age group followed by the 30-39 group.

The Town instituted temporary measures yesterday for employees as follows:

- Meet with 6' of separation or virtually
- Add additional partitions if needed between employees
- If shared station, disinfect between use
- One person per town vehicle
- Stay home if you are sick

Ms. Ball also outlined the new guidance for isolation and quarantine that became effective on December 28, 2021:

If you test positive – You must isolate for 5 days and if you have no symptoms or they are resolving after 5 days you can leave your home but you must continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.



If you are exposed to someone who tested positive-

1. If you are boosted or completed the series of Pfizer or Moderna **within the last 6 months or J & J within the last two months** – Wear a mask for 10 days and test on day 5 if possible. (if you develop symptoms get tested and stay home)
2. If you completed the series of Pfizer or Moderna **over 6 months or J & J over two months ago and you are not boosted or are unvaccinated** you should stay home and quarantine for 5 days and continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days – If you are unable to quarantine, you must wear a mask around others for a full 10 days and in all cases, consider getting tested on day 5.

The Board asked Ms. Ball to create a document outlining this guidance and send to the Board.

Ms. Ball also mentioned that the time between the primary series and the booster has been shortened from 6 months to 5 months. In addition, children age 5-11 will now be eligible for the booster.

Nursing Director – Update

Ms. York mentioned that Acton's COVID numbers are very high and that these are the highest numbers we have seen. Ms. York also mentioned that she believes that the known numbers are significantly higher as home tests are not documented. Ms. York mentioned that the positive cases were still rolling in when she checked the data base before this meeting so the count of 112 cases is not accurate. Ms. York mentioned that Life Care currently has 8 positive employees and one positive resident that was quarantining so no other residents were affected. Ms. York also mentioned that the Benchmark Senior Living at Robbins Brook also has 7 positive employees. Lifecare residents are boosted and Benchmark is working on getting them boosted.

Ms. York also mentioned that she has a part time contact tracer, Ashlyn Durkin who is doing a tremendous job.

The Board asked Ms. York where we are seeing the spread and Ms. York stated that we are currently seeing the spread through all age groups and amongst family units and most are vaccinated. Ms. York also mentioned we are seeing a lot of cases within our daycares and schools.

Members of the public asked if we are seeing high numbers due to the spread in schools and Ms. York stated that the numbers are high but she is seeing others as well. Another member of the public stated that the Board should lift the mask mandate and others stated we should keep it.

Minutes – December 8 and 21, 2021

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Singh, the Board voted to accept the minutes of December 8, 2021. The Chair took roll call and the vote was 4-0-1(abstain).



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On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board voted to accept the minutes of December 21, 2021. The Chair took roll call and the vote was 4-0-1(abstain).

Joanne Bissetta – Resignation:

With a heavy heart, Ms. Bissetta announced her resignation to the Board. Ms. Bissetta has accepted a new position and unfortunately her position creates a conflict. The Board wished Ms. Bissetta well and thanked Ms. Bissetta for her insights, opinions and working knowledge for these past 17 years and wished her well.

Next Meeting

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2022.

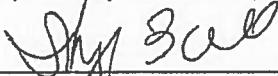
4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board voted to adjourn at 8:19 PM. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

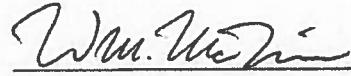
- Town of Acton script for boards and committees opening meeting
- Board of Health agenda
- MDPH updated isolation and quarantine guidance
- Isolation and quarantine guidance for health care professionals
- Minutes from 12-8, 2021 and 12-21, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheryl Ball

Acton Board of Health



William McInnis

Chairman,
Acton Board of Health