



Acton Board of Health

Special Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2020

7:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

Virtual Members Present: William McInnis -Chairman, Joanne Bissetta, Mark Conoby, Dr. William Taylor and Michael Kreuze

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Thomas Jacoby and Dr. Rekha Singh

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director, Heather York-Nursing Director, Eva Szkaradek and Matthew Dow

Virtual Present: Peg Mikkola, Dian Oster, David Martin, Terra Friedrichs, Paul Gearan, Denny Andrell, Lori Cooney, Marion Maxwell, Clare Siska, George Philipp, Melissa Loperto, Shannon Beauregard, Diane Reed and Joseph Will

a. 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 crisis.

2. Regular Business

Director Update: COVID-19 Updates to Residents -

Ms. Ball updated the Board regarding Health Division activities since the last meeting:

- Ms. Ball asked about conducting food, camp and swimming pool inspections as we are getting a lot of requests. The Board stated to think about conducting non-touch or remote food inspections and stated that most camps are held on town fields which are closed until the Local State of Emergency is lifted. The Board also advised to wait for a Governor update for pools and camps.
- Governor Baker press conference today extended the Stay at Home Advisory and closure of non-essential businesses until May 18, 2020. The Governor also announced that nursing homes are hot spots in the State and he has secured



another 130 million in funding that will be available on May 1, 2020 to allow creation of separate areas within the facility, cleaning supplies and PPE's.

- Household Hazardous Waste Day - Ms. Ball stated that Household Hazardous Waste Day was postponed from May 9, 2020 to June 27, 2020 and questioned whether we should hold the event. The Board stated that we should decide that when the date gets closer as we are continually receiving new guidance.
- Face covering Requirement – Since the last meeting, Ms. Ball stated that she received an email asking that the Board require that all residents wear a face covering while out in public. Mr. McInnis asked that a letter be sent to the Board with supporting documentation for Board consideration.

1. Nursing Service Update – Ms. York stated that Life Care Center of Acton will be testing all residents on Wednesday and Thursday and will also test all staff. Currently there are two positive employees and no residents. Robbins Brook Assisted Living has completed the testing of all residents except for the dementia unit and has had two positives. Ms. York also stated that Acton has 67 positive cases with 27 currently being monitored. Ms. York also thanked the Fire Department for conducting a fit test for N95 masks for all of her staff to ensure they are wearing a mask that best protects them. The Board thanked Ms. York for all of her hard work and asked how contact tracing is going. Ms. York stated that the town does a weekly meeting called "Java with John" and she advised residents to call her office if they receive a call from another community indicating that they have been identified as a contact. Ms. York also stated that guidance requires contact tracing 48 hours before a resident become symptomatic and she asks all suspect cases to think about all the places they may have been while awaiting the results. It was also stated that some businesses are requiring their employees to keep a daily log of where they have been. Members of the audience asked if we were seeing clusters and Ms. York stated no.
2. Farmer's Market – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Acton-Boxboro Farmer's Market seeks Board of Health recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to hold a shortened season beginning July 12, 2020 for 12-14 weeks and to change the location to the Elm Street tennis courts. Ms. Bissetta disclosed that she is a member of the Farmer's Market Board and will refrain from discussion or vote if warranted. The Farmer's Market would



need the recommendation this evening so farmers can plant and secure their spots. Ms. Ball stated that she asked the Farmer's Market to submit a plan for safety protocols and this was presented to the Board. The plan included, one way traffic, shorter season, spacing stalls 6' apart, only prepacked foods, no sampling, handwashing stations, educational signage, marking of pavement, etc. The Board reviewed the plan and stated it was about 80% complete and asked that the plan be amended in accordance with Health Division's recommendation and then submit to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

3. New COVID-19 symptoms identified – Dr. Taylor stated that the CDC has identified 6 new symptoms for COVID-19 that include:

- Chills with shaking
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste and smell

4. Next Meeting – The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2020.

5. Pool opening - A member of the audience asked the Board about semi-public pool openings. The Board stated that we are awaiting further guidance from the State.

3. Minutes:

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of April 22, 2020. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:47 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



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- Board of Health agenda
- Acton Boxboro Farmers Market – Safety Plan for opening
- Minutes from April 22, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball

Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis

William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health