



Acton Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2020
7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

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

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

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Andy Richardt, Tom Tidman, B. David Deloury, Marie Machacek, Diann Oster and Lori Cooney.

1. Opening

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:32 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 Operational Updates –

Ms. Ball stated we had a user of the skate park test positive for COVID so the skate park has been closed for two weeks. Prior to the closure, the Health Division was working with Acton Recreation and Acton Police to help enforce users socially distancing and use of face coverings. Acton Police visited the park and passed out free face coverings to those without one. Acton Recreation is also in the process of building a container to place extra face coverings in for the users who forgot theirs. The closure will give us time to get these measures in place.

Ms. Ball stated that we are noticing retail stores and businesses that have employees testing positive for COVID and we are concerned with those trends. The Health Division sent a letter to a retail establishment for failure to report a positive case and also that establishment worked with the Health Division to create a plan to help prevent issues in the future.

Ms. Ball also mentioned that at the last meeting we spoke about trends with positive cases of COVID-19 within our hockey organization. Since that meeting the Governor closed all skating rinks for a period of two weeks.

Ms. Ball stated that the Governor issued three new orders today that will be effective on Friday, November 6th. Those orders are:

1. Early Closing and Alcohol Order #53 – Most stores must close by 9:30 PM



2. Further Revised Gathering Order #54 – Limits both indoor and outdoor gatherings for private residents and public venues
3. Revised Face Coverings Order #55 –Requires face coverings to be worn even when you can socially distance.
4. Stay at Home Advisory – From 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM

Ms. Ball stated that the Health Division will be working on notification and signs placed around public areas stating these new orders. The Board discussed enforcement and the consensus was that the Health Division work to educate residents to enforce these orders by social persuasion and not use the fine provisions of these orders unless there is blatant disregard by residents or businesses.

There have been no new applications for Remote Learning Centers.

Mr. McInnis stated that the Board should consider meeting weekly again as the cases and uptick of COVID related issues are increasing. Mr. McInnis asked Ms. Ball to schedule a meeting for next Monday to meet the posting deadline in case there is a need to meet.

Nursing Service Director Updates-

Ms. York stated that Acton currently has 235 positive cases, 11 in active isolation, 202 recovered and 21 fatalities. Ms. York mentioned that she reached out to our congregate care facilities and is happy to report that Life care Center of Acton has been COVID free since June. Ms. York further mentioned that Benchmark at Robbins Brook has had one employee recently test positive but that person was not in the building in the 48 hours prior to testing positive. Ms. York mentioned that we did receive notification of a group home with some positive cases as of yesterday. Ms. York also thanked the school nurses and administration for all of their help with contact tracing and is thankful for all of their assistance. Ms. York stated, however, that she is seeing approximately 6-30 contacts identified with each positive case. This number has significantly increased in the last few weeks. The Board asked Ms. York how contact tracing is going and Ms. York stated that she has had some resistance with people not returning her phone calls. The Board also asked about trends and Ms. York stated that hockey is the biggest one now. Ms. York also spoke about the recently amended CDC guidance that now lists a contact as anyone that spent less than 6' apart in 10-15 minutes total over a 24 hr. period. The new guidance from Governor Baker also is now requiring groups to let the BOH know if a gathering is taking place 1 week prior to the event. This will help significantly with contact tracing. The Board also asked about a flu clinic. Ms. York stated that she is holding one on Saturday, November 7 from 9-1 at the DPW garage for residents over the age of 9. It was also noted that residents can receive their vaccine through their primary care and pharmacies are also offering them.



Plumbing Code Variance – Sports Pavilion, NARA Park, 75 Quarry Road

The Town of Acton, Recreation Department is requesting the Board of Health's approval for a plumbing code variance to install two toilets without a divider in the family restroom at the Sports Pavilion at NARA Park. This is proposed to allow anyone with special needs to utilize a toilet that accommodates their individual needs and to allow a caregiver to assist if needed. The Board discussed this request and stated it would be prudent to allow for maximum mobility for the users. On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to recommend that the State Plumbing Board grant a variance to allow for two toilets to be installed in the family restroom at 75 Quarry Road with the following conditions:

1. This facility shall be labeled a family restroom.
2. All requirements are met for single occupancy use.

The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

126-128 & 132 Great Road – Aquifer Special Permit

The owners of the property located at 126-128 & 132 Great Road seek an aquifer special permit for the replacement of the septic system for this commercial site. This property is in Zone 3. On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to grant an aquifer special permit to the property located at 126-128 & 132 Great Road with the following conditions:

1. The septic system plan shall be fully compliant with all State and local regulations and requirements.
2. This permit is an aquifer protection permit only and nothing in this permit allows or requires non-compliance with all other present and future applicable laws or regulations.
3. The sewage disposal system for the proposed buildings at this site shall be approved by the Health Department
4. A plan for construction site activities including earth removal, storage and fill shall be approved by the Health Department.
5. A plan documenting the proposed site activity poses no significant risk of reducing, interfering with, or degrading the groundwater or causing any threat to the public health and safety shall be approved by the Health Department.
6. A plan documenting the proposed site activity including soil erosion and run-off containment requirements, requirement to preserve groundwater recharge, limits on the extent of impervious cover and treatment of water run-off shall be approved by the Health and Engineering Departments.



7. All subsurface wells, including geothermal and irrigation wells, shall be designed, installed and maintained as approved with conditions by the Health Department and shall be fully compliant with all other applicable State and local regulations and requirements.
8. No underground fuel storage tanks shall be permitted on the site.
9. The septic tank shall be pumped a minimum of once every year or as determined by the Health Department.
10. The site shall fully conform to the Town of Acton Hazardous Materials Control Bylaw.
11. Floor cleaning procedures for the building shall use only nontoxic and biodegradable cleaning compounds.
12. Sewage disposal system shall be a minimum 100 feet from flood plain and/or wetlands.
13. Floor drains are not permitted, except floor drains which are connected to a tight tank with monitoring system and maintenance plan as approved with conditions by the Health Department.
14. No increase in design flow or change of use without written approval by the Health Division.

The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Discussion – Acton Board of Health Rules and Regulations - Article 11 & 16

The Health Division made some suggested changes to both Article 11 and 16 for Board review and discussion. The proposed changes consist of clarifications, best practices and ease of following. The Board reviewed the proposed changes and made suggested changes and asked the Health Division to bring back for discussion at a future meeting.

Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes dated October 19, 2020. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:58 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
- 75 Quarry Road ,Sports Pavilion- request from Town for Plumbing Code Variance
- 126-128 & 132 Great Road – Request for Aquifer special permit, septic plans and proposed conditions for approval.
- Draft of Article 11 & 16
- Minutes from October 19, 2020



Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball

Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis

William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health