



**Acton Board of Health**  
Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2020  
7:30 P.M.  
VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

**Present:**

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

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Thomas Jacoby

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Steven Ventresca, Marie Alteri, Peg Mikkola, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Diann Oster, Chuck Adam, JD Head, Dan Jones, Susan Hunter, BAPFeifer, and Kurt Marden

**1. Opening**

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:35 P.M. A script was read that was provided by the Town stating why the meetings are virtual during this crisis.

A resident asked why the Chat function was disabled on Zoom. Ms. Ball stated she would check with IT to fix this issue.

**2. Regular Business**

**Director Operational Updates –**

**Health Division Update:**

**COVID-19 Complaints**

The Governor's Office issued guidance to alert residents that if they wish to make complaints about businesses not adhering to COVID 19 safety protocols, that they should contact their local BOH or Department of Labor Standards.

**Face Coverings**

Ms. Ball stated that staff has received many complaints about people not wearing face coverings and is seeking Board guidance. Ms. Ball reiterated the face covering order from Governor Baker and stated that they must be worn if you are unable or can't maintain distance of 6' or more, shall cover both the nose and mouth, and people with a medical condition are exempt. Ms. Ball also stated that businesses can decline entry to any individual that is not



wearing a face covering and fines can be issued up to \$300/violation. The Board advised staff to send out notification to all establishments again in the hope that postings will deter individuals from entering an establishment without proper face coverings. The Board stated that we need to ensure that compliance is adhered to by all. The Board also discussed compliance of the Face Covering order and asked if they can issue fines as they have seen people not in compliance. It was stated that Board members are agents and can issue fines. Staff agreed to do some more educational outreach.

### **Plastic Bag Ban**

Ms. Ball stated that the Governor rescinded the temporary order rescinding the plastic bag ban and is now not allowing the use of plastic bags effective Monday, July 13, 2020. Ms. Ball stated staff is in the process of notifying businesses.

### **Next BOH Meetings**

Ms. Ball stated the next BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

### **Nursing Director Update:**

Ms. Ball stated that Ms. York was off this week and provided the Board with the current COVID-19 numbers. Acton currently has 178 positive with 5 actively in isolation, 152 recovered and 21 fatalities.

### **Twin School – Gates Douglas – Request to relocate septic tanks**

Ms. Ball stated that the Health Division received a request to relocate the septic tanks as the previous area that was approved by the Board encountered significant ledge. Mr. Ventresca, Engineer for the project, stated that the new tank location will be located in Zone 3, however, approximately 125' from the wetlands. They are also proposing shallow tanks that are longer to help with any ledge encountered in the new area but given the new higher elevation of almost 10' and the known ledge line they believe that the proposed area is suitable for the tank location. The Board asked if the new location could be closer to the leaching area, but Mr. Ventresca stated that area is closer to the wetland buffer zone and the porous pavement does not allow for tank placement in that area. The Board also asked about the long distance to the SAS and Mr. Ventresca stated that a larger pump will be required with additional horsepower. The Board asked that some additional safety measures be added to include, poly barrier between tanks and wetlands, steel plates placed over tanks during construction, approval from Cons Com and additional safety measures as recommended by the Health Division. These would be in addition to the conditions that the Board approved previously and Evan Carloni's recommendation. On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board voted



approval of the re-location of the septic tanks consistent with approval from Cons Com, Evan Carloni's conditions and all conditions noted below:

1. All previous comments pertaining to the specified components must be addressed on the septic system design plan prior to installation. A revised copy of this plan must be submitted and approved by the Health Department.
2. A water tightness test must be performed after all pipe penetrations have been completed for the septic tank installation. An additional water tightness test must be performed after the pump chamber is installed and connected to the septic tanks.
3. Monitoring wells must be installed in between the septic tanks and the nearby wetlands.
4. All previous conditions, other than condition 15, imposed by the Acton Board of Health from the approval at the June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting will apply. See attached.
5. This approval is contingent on Conservation Commission approval.
6. Due to new location at the primary entrance and staging location for the site, add requirement that applicant provide and maintain necessary protection for the tanks and system components during construction.
7. Due to the proximity to the primary construction path and building construction, suggest steel plates be placed over top the tanks during construction and/or concrete barriers be placed to direct heavy traffic, such as steel and concrete deliveries, cranes and drill rigs away from the tanks.
8. Add new condition that a safety and protection plan for maintaining and protecting the tanks and septic system components be provided for review and prior approval by the Health Department.
9. Add new condition that due to proximity to wetland and river way, the applicant install a poly barrier between the tanks and the sensitive receptors with the plan to be approved by Health Department.
10. shown on as-built plans which shall be submitted to the Health Department prior to use.
11. All septic system components must be located, prominently marked and maintained during construction.
12. All septic system components shall be protected and made safe and secure for school, visitor and construction individuals.
13. Septic tank covers and system manways shall be water tight and lockable
14. All covers must be locked. Tanks must remain secured at all times to ensure the safety of the public.
15. Tanks must be installed and covered over properly to avoid damage to the tanks by construction equipment.
16. All piping and electrical shall be installed per code and a locating tape shall be placed on top of all pipes and conduits.
17. All piping and electrical shall be sleeved with an outer protective means in areas under driveways or in close proximity to new construction excavation or footings.
18. All piping shall be solvent welded PVC schedule 40 or as approved by the Health Department and design engineer.
19. Tanks, access covers and piping shall be H2O rated for vehicle loading.
20. The septic system tanks shall each be provided with independent high water level alarms which shall provide a local alarm and remote alarm to building maintenance



personnel.

21. A system site installation and maintenance plan shall be provided and approved by the Health Department prior to any system construction activities.
22. Pumping and maintenance of the septic tanks shall occur only after school hours, when students are not on campus and the school is not in use.
23. Before the new septic system is operational and issuance of a certificate of compliance, the sewer pipes and tanks shall be video inspected to confirm that there are no breaks, damage or un-jointed pipes. Any damaged component must be immediately repaired or replaced.
24. The design and installation of the septic tanks shall account for and allow room to install a nitrogen reduction treatment in the future if the need arises or is required.
25. The septic tanks shall be installed in accordance with the stamped plans by the design engineer as approved by the Health Department.

The Chair took Roll Call and the vote for 4 Ayes – 1 Nay. Motion passes.

## **PFAS**

Mr. McInnis stated that he has asked staff to schedule a joint meeting with the Acton Water District to discuss PFAS with the Board. The Acton Water District stated that we could hold that meeting on July 15, 2020 but when the Board was polled most could not make that meeting date. Mr. McInnis asked staff to reach out to the Water District and ask them to attend our next BOH meeting. The Board agreed that this is a significant issue and recommended that we have this discussion during a public meeting.

### **3. Minutes:**

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of June 17, 2020. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

### **4. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:17 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
- Douglas/Gates – Septic tank relocation, plan and modified plan, memo 6-17-2020health memo,
- Minutes from June 17, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball

Wm. McInnis



Sheryl Ball  
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis- Chairman,  
Acton Board of Health