



**Acton Board of Health**  
Special Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
August 5, 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 Rekha Singh.

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Mark Albert, Diann Oster, Eric Johnson, Mary Lynn Miller, Bryan Cote,

**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 Operational Updates –**

Ms. Ball stated that the State of Massachusetts travel order that was effective on August 1, 2020 now removes Rhode Island as a lower risk State.

The State has launched #MaskUpMA initiative which is an educational effort to continue to remind residents to wear face coverings to stop the spread. The State has the help of public figures to help with this initiative and currently there is a commercial on TV featuring Wally the Green Monster.

Ms. Ball also mentioned that this week the Acton Water District notified our residents that arsenic was found in the drinking water at a level of 11 ppb. The current limit is 10 ppb. The Water District took immediate action and added activated carbon filtration and other adjustments and the repeat sample results were below the limit at 5 and 6 ppb. The Water District believes that these actions have remedied the situation.

Ms. Ball stated that staff has spoken with the Engineer for the proposed septic system at the Gates sites and there were no additional concerns voiced for the other conditions that the Board imposed at the last meeting. The only concerns that were discussed are the ones that were extensively discussed at the last Board meeting. Staff is currently looking at nitrogen levels for similar projects and also consulting with the DEP.



### **Nursing Service Director Updates-**

Ms. York stated that Acton currently has 186, 4 in active isolation, 161 recovered and 21 fatalities. Ms. York also mentioned guidance has stayed the same with the exception of the travel order to Rhode Island that Ms. Ball mentioned. Ms. York also mentioned there are no changes in guidance for disease surveillance. Ms. York stated that she is watching the State numbers closely and following the hospital numbers, amount of people being tested and stated that Governor is doing a great job getting this information out to the public. Ms. York stated that she is fine with the Board keeping things status quo in regards to what is currently open, but will report back to the Board if trends indicate that we should begin closing or limiting what businesses can do. Ms. York further mentioned that trends are not currently showing the need to make changes. Ms. York indicated that as our college residents go back to school, we are required to keep track of them even if they are going to school in another state. This will help us see any trends that may develop from this population. Ms. York mentioned that some schools are changing their academic calendar in order to limit students from the need to travel. The Board stated that it is our recommendation for residents to stay home but understand that this is not always possible so asked that they do so in a safe manner. Ms. York stated that this will be the case for quite a while. The Board also asked about Flu Clinics and Ms. York stated that we are still awaiting shipment of the vaccine and once we have them we will schedule clinics. The Board also asked about lag time in notifications once someone tests positive and Ms. York stated that sometimes we receive word from the resident before the State notifies us but typically there is not a lot of lag time. The members of the public asked if there is a transition plan for the school. Ms. Ball stated that she is working with the schools to help them with the guidance.

### **Next BOH Meetings**

Ms. Ball stated the next BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

### **4 Cherokee Road – Variance**

The homeowner of 4 Cherokee Road, Mr. Eric Johnson, is requesting a variance from 310 CMR 15.229 (1), which requires a minimum septic tank volume of 1500 gallons to be able to pump to a septic tank, to allow for the installation of a ejector pump for a below grade toilet. Mr. Johnson has a 1000 gallon septic tank on site and has been working with his plumber to come up with an acceptable alternative to replacing the 1000 gallon septic tank with a 1500 gallon tank.

Ms. Ball stated that the homeowner and his plumber have developed a plan to lower the gallons per minute and also lower the speed by diverting the discharge from the pump to the first floor so when discharged it will flow by gravity. Ms. Ball stated that lowering the velocity of sewage flow so that it does not exceed two feet per second, which is the minimum velocity required for a building sewer per section 310 CMR 15.222 (6), could work but this solution is new to the Department. The Health Department suggested approving this with conditions to ensure that this solution will protect the environment and future buyers going forward. The Board discussed this request and asked if this has been done before. Ms. Ball stated no. The Board stated that if the homeowner is willing to inspect the system, install an effluent t-filter and upgrade upon transfer so this does not have an impact on a future buyer, the Board would approve. On a motion made



by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to approve this variance request with the following conditions:

1. The system shall pass a Title 5 inspection, prior to installation of the ejector pump.
2. The septic tank shall be pumped annually.
3. The installation of an effluent T filter is required.
4. This approval is subject to the approval of the Health Division
5. The septic tank shall be upgraded to a compliant system upon transfer of the property.

The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

#### **Other Update**

The Board stated that they are satisfied with the actions taken by the Acton Water District to reduce the Arsenic levels in the water but would like staff to continue to monitor and update the Board as necessary. Mr. Conoby stated that there is a Water District meeting tomorrow evening if anyone would like additional information.

#### **3. Minutes:**

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes dated July 13, 2020 with corrections. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

The Board asked that amendments be made to the minutes dated July 29, 2020 and brought back to the Board for approval.

#### **4. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, 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
- 4 Cherokee Road – Request for Variance, recommendation from Health Dept, Abutter Notification and velocity calculations.
- Minutes from July 13, 2020 and July 29, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball  
Sheryl Ball  
Acton Board of Health

Wm. McInnis  
William McInnis- Chairman,  
Acton Board of Health