



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2024

7:30 PM.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Virtual Members Present: Mark Conoby – Chair of the Board of Health, William McInnis, Dr. William Taylor, Dr. Rekha Singh and Michael Kreuze

Virtual Staff Present: Matthew Dow – Interim Health Director, Penny Funaiole – Health and Family Services Director and Arleny Almonte Soto – Regional Shared Services Inspector

Others Present Virtually: Alissa Nicol – Select Board Liaison

1. Opening

Chairman – Mark Conoby opened the meeting at 7:34 P.M. A script was read that was provided by the Town and this meeting of the Board of Health was called to order.

2. Regular Business

Future Agenda Items

The Board would like to see at future meetings an update from the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project, and an update from the Acton Water District on PFAS. The Board would like to discuss initiatives, with short- and long-term goals. Also, an update from the EPA on the nuclear metals and WR Grace sites.

Health Director Update

Mr. Dow gave a quick update to the Board. He reminded the Board that the health Division is holding Household Hazardous Waste Day is on Saturday June 1, 2024 from 9:00 – 11:30 AM at the DPW Building 14 Forest Road.

Mr. Dow continued that the Health Division received an email from Superintendent Peter Light regarding the Boardwalk Battery Project back on May 2 that was forwarded to the Board. It states after looking at their timeline, they have decided to use the rest of Spring and Summer to pause the project. During that time, they are going to re-evaluate the project from a safety and financial perspective before making any decisions about next steps.



Mr. Dow also updated the Board that beach and pool season has started. The Division did an opening beach inspection at NARA and have completed 6 pool inspections in the last 2 days.

Ms. Funaiole informed the Board that Matthew Dow would become the environmental health director, with a focus on environmental protections, and a part-time public health nurse position was being advertised. She also praised the nursing staff and reported how well the staff handles patients.

Nursing Service Update

Mr. Dow informed the Board that the Nursing Director Heather York reported that there are no issues at LifeCare Center or Benchmark at Robbins Brook at this time.

Mr. Dow informed the Board that the Nursing Service has treated 12 cases of Coronavirus, 2 cases of Influenza, 1 case of Norovirus, 11 cases of TB and 1 case of Pertussis.

3. New / Special Business

Appointment as Board of Health Agent – Penelope Funaiole

Penny comes to us from the City of Medford with over 15 years' experience working in public health.

Mr. McInnis motions for Mrs. Funaiole to become an agent of the Board of Health. Dr. Taylor seconds the motion. The Chair took role call and all were in favor.

Appointment as Board of Health Member – Arleny Almonte Soto

Arleny is a regional inspector who works for the Northwest Public Health Coalition, serving the Towns of Acton, Dracut, Westford and the City of Lowell.

Mr. McInnis motions for Ms. Almonte Soto to become an agent of the Board of Health. Dr. Singh seconds the motion. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Emergency Beaver Trapping – Nagog Pond

The Health Division has received a request for an emergency permit for beaver trapping due to beaver activity around Nagog Pond which is threatening flooding of drinking water wells, well fields and water pumping stations.

Unfortunately, it was determined that this site is not a candidate for alternative solutions.

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to approve a 10 Day emergency permit, beginning on Wednesday May 15, 2024, giving the



licensed trapper and its agent the right to use restricted traps and breach any dams or dikes, along with a 10-day extension if needed. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

92B Willow Street – Update / Order and Enforcement

Mr. Dow and the Chair Mr. Conoby updated the Board that the housing court decided that the appeal made by the Thompson's was denied and the order to vacate and condemnation order has been upheld. Mrs. Funaiole updated the Board on next steps. She stated that she received an email from Town Counsel saying the property must be properly placarded and that we need to notify the occupants. Ms. Funaiole continued that there will be a meeting tomorrow with Town Officials to discuss next steps further before moving forward.

Mr. McInnis motions to authorize and request that any person that fails to comply with Board of Health orders for 92B Willow Street and refuses to leave the dwelling which has been ordered secured, condemned, vacated and placarded and to be secured, may be forcibly removed in accordance with 105 CMR 410.950 by the Board of Health or local police authorities. Dr. Singh seconds this motion. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Minutes – April 23, 2024

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. McInnis, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes with corrections of April 23, 2024. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:47 P.M. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be on Tuesday June 25, 2024

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

- Town of Acton script for boards and committees opening meeting
- Board of Health agenda
- Nagog Pond beaver activity map
- Board of Health meeting minutes from 4/23/24



Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew R. Dow
Matthew Dow
Interim Health Director

Mark Conroy, Chairman
Acton Board of Health