



## Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2020

7:30 P.M.

ROOM 204 TOWN HALL, 472 MAIN STREET WITH 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, Evan Carloni, Matthew Dow, John Mangiaratti and Matthew Selby

Virtual Present: Terra Friedrichs, Angie Tso, Mark Laviano, Tack Palmer

### **1. Opening**

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:32 P.M.

### **2. Regular Business**

A. Director Update: The Health Director updated the Board as to the actions the Health Department staff has taken related to the COVID-19 Public Health emergency. As directed at the last meeting, staff has closed all town fields and posted closure signs.

#### B.COVID-19/Corona Virus

1. Governor Baker's order assuring operation of continued essential workers and closure or all non-essential businesses effective March 24, 2020 at 12:00 (noon) - The Health Division has received requests from some businesses stating they should be allowed to stay open. The Board directed all businesses seeking designation as an essential business to apply directly to the State at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/essential-service-designation-request>. If approval is granted then all businesses must send notification to the Health Division. The Chair polled the Board who were all in support of this action.



2. Private Schools - Case Collaborative and Victor School – The Health Division received a call from CASE seeking Board of Health guidance regarding closure. They are currently closed until March 30, 2020, however, Board action would be required after that date to remain closed. The Board asked Health Division staff to contact other collaborative schools in other towns and ask what they are currently doing and also ask Acton Public schools what they are doing with their students that are currently placed within that program and report back at a future BOH meeting.
  
3. Tennis and Golf Businesses – The Board of Health discussed whether these two sports should be allowed to operate. Mr. Curley owner of a tennis program stated that he has closed his inside business but would like to be allowed to operate outside only with minimal communal touching of shared object. The Board stated that both golf and tennis are not listed as essential and that they must apply at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/essential-service-designation-request>. If approval is granted then all businesses must send notification to the Health Division. The Chair polled the Board who were all in support of this action.
  
4. Plastic Bag Ban – The Health Division has received calls from our grocery stores stating that they no longer are allowing residents to bring in their own reusable bags. This decision was made due to the ability of the virus living on bags. The store owners also stated that they are worried about obtaining brown paper bags and asked if they could be allowed to temporarily use banned plastic bags. The Chair polled the Board who were all in support of recommending temporary suspension of the plastic bag ban bylaw during the public health emergency only and recommends that the Board of Selectmen take this under advisement at their next meeting.
  
5. Household Hazardous Waste Day – The spring household hazardous waste day is planned for May 9<sup>th</sup> and the Health Division seeks guidance to postpone. The Board stated that they recommended postponement. Health Division staff will notify clean harbors and see if a later date is possible.
  
6. Porta Potties/Public Bathrooms – The Board discussed discontinuing the use of public bathroom facilities as they can't be serviced safely at this time. The Board stated that all portable bathrooms and public bathrooms, not in support of essential services, shall



remain closed during this public health emergency. The Chair polled the Board who were all in support of this action.

7. Acton Nursing Service – Ms. York updated the Board with current COVID-19 numbers in the State of Massachusetts and also stated there are no current confirmed cases in Acton but we do have some under quarantine. Ms. York stated that those currently infected in Massachusetts are between the ages of 20-59 and the numbers of those over 70 are lower. Ms. York indicated that she has increased the hours of her staff nurse to assist with monitoring. The Board asked if school nurses could be utilized if needed. The Board also instructed Ms. York to keep track of extra expenses for possible reimbursement from the state. The Board thanked Ms. York for her teams work and questioned whether they have PPE's available. Ms. York stated that so far they have been able to help the quarantined residents through telecommunication but if home visits are needed they would get needed supplies from Police or Fire.
8. Questions from Audience: Angie asked about whether there is a community database that includes all that have recently traveled and may be under self-quarantine. Angie stated that this information would be valuable to all residents and the Board of Health should maintain this list. Ms. York stated that the current protocols from the State that says you should call your physician if you have traveled to a high risk area. The physician is also required to report any confirmed cases to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health who then reports to the local Board of Health.

Terra stated that she considers tennis essential as social distancing can be achieved and was upset about the Board's order to close them. She also encouraged the Board to take the lead on making decisions.

9. The Chair polled members of the Board of Health to ask what they would like to discuss at the next meeting that will be scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2020. The Board suggested that we discuss MRC, Preparedness Planning, Lack of Resources, Shelter in Place, Education to our residents about only flushing Toilet Paper and protecting our septic systems and general cleaning guidance.

**4. Minutes:** The Board deferred approval of the minutes from March 16, 2020 to the next meeting.

## **5. Adjournment**

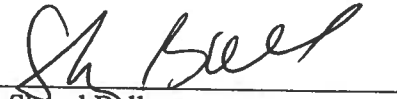


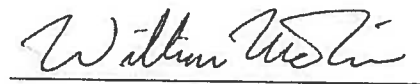
On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:20 PM.

**Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting;**

- BOH guidance memo
- BOH closure of Town Fields
- Gov Baker Assemblage memo
- Gov Baker – Essential worker order
- Declaration of Emergency
- Board of Health draft Minutes dated March 16, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Sheryl Ball  
Acton Board of Health

  
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William McInnis- Chairman,  
Acton Board of Health