



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2020

7:30 P.M.

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, Eva Szkaradek, Matthew Dow

Virtual Present: Chuck Adam, Dian Oster, Jill Salamon, Kimberly Powers, Miriam, Stephen Long, Wayne Klockner, David Martin, Terra Friedrichs, and Mark Hald.

1. Opening

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

2. Regular Business

Director Update: COVID-19 Updates to Residents -

Ms. Ball updated the Board regarding Health Division activities since the last meeting.

Ms. Ball stated that essential businesses were sent notifications to follow social distancing guidelines, CDC recommendation to wear masks and to provide a disinfectant schedule in order to safeguard the spread of COVID-19. Ms. Ball also stated that the town wide mailing should be in everyone's mailboxes in the next two days. Staff has also had town rented porta potties removed or locked located on public lands and the construction order the Board voted last meeting is being distributed at construction sites.

1. Nursing Service Update – Ms. York stated we currently have 17 positive cases of COVID-19 and all are under quarantine. Ms. York also mentioned that they have received messages that apartment complexes are not abiding by the social distancing guidelines and that notifications should be placed in the buildings. Ms. York stated that she placed



the Surgeon General's instructions on how to make a face mask on the Town's website since the CDC is now recommending that masks be worn by all in public places. Ms. York also stated that they are busy with DPH calls and contact tracing. Ms. York stated that when contact tracing is being done with the current confirmed cases, they are finding that these residents have not had contact with others which is a good thing. The Board asked if Heather has proper PPE and she stated that just masks and gloves.

2. NARA Park Closure - The Board discussed the ongoing concerns with users not following social distancing and congregating guidelines at NARA Park. The Town has placed many alerts around the park telling all users of the park not to congregate and to social distance. Areas were marked closed and areas where people were congregating were either taped off or removed. There were also signs all over the park indicating users to follow these guidelines. Unfortunately, some users did not heed these warnings and caused significant concerns to everyone's safety. The Recreation Director issued a statement to the Board recommending closure due to these ongoing issues. Governor Baker has issued a Stay at Home Advisory for the safety of all Massachusetts residents and the Board stated that this was issued for self-protection. The next couple of weeks are predicted to be the highest increase of COVID related illnesses and it is important for our residents to help contain the spread by staying at home. On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board voted to close NARA Park, effective immediately, and the park shall remain closed for the duration of declared Massachusetts State of Emergency related to COVID-19 or otherwise directed by the Board of Health. Following this vote, the Board discussed this action and most expressed their agreement but there was also opposition to this closure. The Board stated that it is imperative that our residents stay safe stay home as well as limiting outings to decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19. On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Dr. Taylor the Board amended the previous motion that NARA park remain closed for the declared **local** State of Emergency. The Chair took Roll Call and all were in favor.

Mr. Martin stated that he would bring the parking ban approval for this site to the Board of Selectmen meeting tomorrow evening.

Mr. Kreuze made a motion to close the Arboretum but the motion was not seconded.

Mr. Kreuze made a motion to close all town conservation areas and the rail trail but the motion was not seconded.



The Board also asked staff to work with other town departments to implement measures at all conservation areas and at the rail trail to help protect the users of these areas.

Steve Long stated that he has helped to develop hiking guidance regarding social distancing practices, wearing of masks, washing hands, staying home if you're sick and offered to share those with staff. Wayne Klockner endorsed the use of the arboretum and stated that he walks there daily and has observed people following protocols.

3. Minutes:

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of April 2, 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 8:34 PM. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting;

- NARA closure recommendation from Recreation Director
- Acton COVID Case reporting document
- COVID public Health notice
- Minutes from April 2, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health

APR. 16 2020

March 30, 2020 Board of Health