



## **Acton Board of Health**

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 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: Dave Lunger, Steve Long, Peg Mikkola, Dian Oster, David Martin and Terra Friedrichs.

### **a. 1. Opening**

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Mr. McInnis stated that the Board has a meeting scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2020 that may be cancelled if there are no action items. Mr. McInnis also thanked the Board members for their continued availability during this crisis.

### **2. Regular Business**

Director Update: COVID-19 Updates to Residents -

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

- MEMA still notifying us that both PPE and cleaning supplies are still limited
- Gov. Baker Nursing Home guidance – Allowing symptomatic residents to be tested at the site rather than transport.
- Rail Trail/Conservation signs are being printed and laminated and placed at all sites with the help of Natural Resources and Steve Long.
- Gov. Baker construction addendum – Protocol for construction worker with illness



- Community support – we are receiving donations of face masks from the community groups
- Gov. Baker – grocery stores can only have 40% of occupancy load including employees. Town staff also plans on reaching out with other guidance for safety including adding one way aisles, eliminating goods at registers.
- Messaging in the next couple of weeks will focus on stay at home advisory.

Mr. Kreuze asked Ms. Ball how many confirmed cases we currently have and was told 25 as of yesterday. Ms. Bissetta mentioned she went to the grocery store yesterday and had to wait in line so the grocery stores are taking this seriously.

1. Nursing Service Update – Ms. York stated we currently have increased to 26 positive cases of COVID-19. Ms. York stated she and Linda Cullen are currently handling the case load and conducting the contact tracings. Ms. York also stated that there are 3 per diem nurses on stand-by ready to help out if needed. Ms. York also reiterated the need for people to stay home and stay safe. Ms. York reminded everyone that this is an extremely difficult time and the Nursing service must respect the privacy of all confirmed patients and their families. Ms. York stated she is getting requests from residents to identify locations of positive cases and reminded everyone to think about those families that are affected, hurting and even dying from this horrible disease and asked everyone to respect their privacy. The Board asked Ms. York if she is seeing trends in certain sections of town and she stated no. Ms. York also stated that currently more positive cases are currently at home, rather than the hospital. Ms. York stated that guidelines have changed for contact tracing and they are now starting 48 hours before the person became symptomatic. The Board also asked if she has enough PPE's and the answer was no. The Board thanked Ms. York for all of her hard work and constant updates. Members of the audience stated that Ms. York's discussion of being sensitive to the families and patients dealing with this was heartwarming.
2. Arboretum, Conservation and Rail Trail Updates – The Board reviewed the letter from Tom Tidman, Natural Resource Director, asking the Board to keep the Arboretum, conservation areas and the rail trails open. The Board discussed provisions to keep these areas open and instructed the Health Division to implement the following protocols and



The Chair polled the Board and all were in favor of implementing these protocols.

**3. Minutes:**

On a motion made by Mr. Kreuzer, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of April 6, 2020. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

**4. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Mr. Kreuzer, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9 PM. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

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

- Tom Tidman recommendation to keep trails open
- Minutes from April 6, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sheryl Ball*

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Sheryl Ball  
Acton Board of Health

*William McInnis*

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William McInnis- Chairman,  
Acton Board of Health