



Acton Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2021
7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

Members Present: William McInnis –Chairman and Mark Conoby.

Virtual Members Present: Dr. William Taylor, Michael Kreuze and Joanne Bissetta

Associate Members Present: Dr. Thomas Jacoby and Dr. Singh were not present.

Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Mark Hald and two call in users.

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 pandemic.

2. Regular Business

Health Director – Update

Ms. Ball stated that we are having a hard time booking a large room to hold the Board of Health meetings and suggested we change the meeting day from Mondays to either Tuesday or Wednesday or go back to meeting virtually only until the end of the pandemic. The Board decided to change the date from Monday's to Wednesdays and Ms. Ball stated that she would send out a revised meeting schedule ASAP.

Mask Discussions:

Ms. Ball stated that we are still not seeing anything unique to Acton to reconsider issuing a mask mandate in Acton but our numbers have increased and promised to keep an eye on the numbers. Ms. Ball stated that we are currently consistent with the DPH guidance regarding mask wearing. The Board discussed this at length and the consensus was to strongly recommend that masks be worn and look at surrounding town's data that have instituted a mask mandate to compare our numbers and discuss at a future meeting.

New Hire:

Ms. Ball stated that our new hire, Felix Garcia has started and will bring him to meet the Board at a future meeting.



Household Hazardous Waste Day:

We held our bi-annual hazardous waste day on Wednesday, September 21, 2021 and had great attendance. We unfortunately had an issue with the lines with residents waiting between 45-1 hr. We believe that Clean Harbors did not have enough staff to accommodate our needs and have spoken with them about future dates. We also believe that residents are doing a fair amount of cleaning (during Covid) and that could also have been a factor. Either way, the lines were unacceptable and we will consider other options so this doesn't happen again. The Board made some suggestions to keep cars off the roadways.

Sewer:

Ms. Ball stated that the Town is looking to use ARPA funds to help design/study sewers to help those businesses along RT 2A. The Select board has not voted yet but this is currently on the recommended list. Ms. Nagireddy was present tonight and said this list will be voted on the next Select Board meeting on October 18, 2021.

Nursing Service Update:

Ms. York is on a well-deserved vacation. We currently have 1157 cases since the beginning, 1096 recovered, 29 in active isolation and unfortunately 32 fatalities. We are seeing break through cases. These numbers have doubled over the last couple of weeks but we are still not seeing trends. Of the 29 in isolation, 10 positive cases are students that vary in ages and we believe that schools being in session may be a factor in the increase. Also noted in our cases, there are some within daycares, sports activities, etc but the good news is we are not seeing those close contacts convert. We are watching the trends closely and will keep the Board updated. Thanks to the school nurses, we have a large number of students that are participating in the Test and Stay program which is so helpful.

Emergency Beaver Trapping Permit – 171 Newtown Road

A request has been made of an emergency permit for beaver trapping due to beaver activity with flooding occurring on said property in close proximity to the septic system located at 171 Newtown Road. The Health Department has confirmed that in accordance with the Rules and Regulations that a threat to Human Health and Safety by beaver or muskrat-caused flooding of a residential septic system exists at the property located at 171 Newtown Road.

Beaver solutions visited this site and unfortunately this property is not a candidate for alternative solutions other than trapping due to the location of the beaver activity.

Based on this information, the Health Department recommends that the Board of Health approve a 10 day emergency permit, beginning on Thursday, October 7, 2021, giving the



licensed trapper and its agent the right to use restricted traps and breach the dams or dikes subject to the conditions of the Conservation Commission.

In addition, the department would recommend that the Board approve that the applicant, should the 10 day emergency permit not solve the beaver problems be granted a 10 day extension.

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to grant an Emergency Beaver Trapping Permit for the property located at 171 Newtown Road for a period of 10 days. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Minutes

The Board asked to bring these minutes to the next meeting for review.

Next Meeting

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2021.

Other Business

The Board asked about mandating vaccine for Town employees. The Board asked Ms. Ball to inquire with the Town Manager regarding this status.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:55 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
- Beaver Trapping Permit application,
- Minutes of 8-30-2021

Respectfully Submitted



Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health



William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health