



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

7:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

Virtual Members Present: William McInnis -Chairman, Mark Conoby, Dr. William Taylor, and Michael Kreuze. Joanne Bissetta was not present and Michael Kreuze was recently reappointed and could not vote tonight until he is sworn in.

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Rekha Singh was present and voted for absent Joanne Bissetta and Dr. Thomas Jacoby was present and was recently reappointed and could not vote tonight until he is sworn in.

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Alissa Nichol, Matt Mostoller, Paulette and Peter Farmer.

1. Opening

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:35 P.M. A script was read that was provided by the Town stating why the meetings are virtual during this pandemic.

2. Regular Business

Virtual Meetings - Ms. Ball stated that the State has extended all Board's ability to meet virtually until April 1, 2022. The Board is also allowed to meet in person with the option for others to be virtual. The Board discussed these options and decided that they would remain virtual until the end of the summer. The Board was in agreement.

Polystyrene Ban- Ms. Ball stated that a group of residents would like to attend the next Board meeting on August 16, 2021 to discuss banning polystyrene in Acton. The Board stated that was fine.

Central Mass Mosquito control project will be present at the August 16, 2021 BOH meeting to update the Board. This is usually done yearly but we are delayed due to the pandemic.

School Project- Ms. Ball stated that she was in contact with the installer of the septic system at the new Gates/Douglas twin school regarding groundwater infiltration into the new septic tanks. Ms. Ball further informed the Board that contact tracing is no longer being done when the exposure happens outdoors.

Public Health Excellence Award – Ms. Ball stated that we have regionalized with Westford, Dracut and Lowell to strengthen public health and expand outreach for tobacco control and other



needed services amongst the 4 communities. There is currently a job description for a health and wellness coordinator that is currently be advertised by the Westford Health Department that will assist with all towns needs during the life of the 3 year grant. The award was for \$295,872.

Nursing Service Director Updates-

Ms. York is on vacation and Ms. Ball informed the Board that there are currently 0 residents in isolation but we do have 3 close contacts on quarantine. Ms. Ball also stated that the town has one vial of the J & J Covid vaccine and will be distributing that to our homebound and new congregate residents next week. The Board asked Ms. Ball the status of the Kmart site. Ms. Ball stated that we are currently in deferment with the approval from the State and the site is currently available to us if needed for future vaccination clinics.

Public Hearing – Acton Board of Health Rules and Regulations Article 11 & 16

Mr. McInnis declared the public hearing that was continued from June 7th open. Ms. Ball stated that we are in receipt of comments and would like some additional time to review and make changes prior to Board action. The subject of the comments were in regards to defining both semi and public surface water supplies zones A, B and C. Ms. Ball asked the Board for a continuance until August 16, 2021. Members of the audience asked if the proposed changes could be forwarded to the Water Resource Advisory Committee and Mr. McInnis stated that Joanne Bissetta is a member.

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to continue the public hearing to August 16, 2021 at 7:45 PM. Roll call was taken and all were in favor.

28 Captain Brown's Lane – Paulette and Peter Farmer –

Ms. Ball stated that the owners of the property located at 28 Captain Brown's Lane are seeking permission to modify the current deck and add a three season room with heating and air conditioning. This request is needed to accommodate the special needs of a family member and allow her a place to enjoy the seasons. This property was purchased by the current owners and it was not known that this property had a deed restriction limiting them from expanding the square footage of the home for a septic system repair that received a reduction from the depth to groundwater. At that time the requirement that the owner notify all subsequent owners was not in place. Mr. and Mrs. Farmer reiterated that this is needed to assist their daughter so she can remain at home. Ms. Farmer also stated that she is in need of both heat and air conditioning to help her regulate her body temperature. The Board stated that this is a challenging situation and appreciated the need. Some options to allow this 3 season room to be built could include no heat as heat makes the room habitable and also suggested that adding an additional settling tank with an effluent Tee Filter could help get the deed restriction removed so this could be approved. The Board asked the Farmer's if they would like to table this request to think about their options and the Farmer's agreed. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.



Emergency Beaver Trapping Permit – Lake Nagog

A request has been made of an emergency permit for beaver trapping due to beaver activity determining a threat to public water supply related to Beaver activity. There is an active lodge within the lake (reservoir) that is deemed a threat to human health and safety. This application was received by the Town of Concord who utilize this reservoir for drinking water for some residents of Concord and for the properties located in Acton along Great Road.

This request was previously approved by the Board in April and it has been determined that additional beavers are present in the reservoir and given its location in a drinking water supply, we have determined that this site does not meet the criteria for an alternative solution other than trapping. Based on this information, the Health Department recommends that the Board of Health approve a 10 day emergency permit, beginning on Tuesday, July 13, 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. Singh, the Board unanimously voted to approve a 10 day emergency permit, beginning on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, giving the licensed trapper and its agent the right to use restricted traps and breach the dams or dikes. The Board took roll call and all were in favor.

Minutes

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Singh, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of June 7, 2021. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2021.

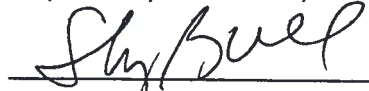
4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Singh, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:53 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
- Comments for proposed changes to Article 11 & 16, Article 11 and Article 16
- 28 Captain Browns Lane variance request from homeowner, Staff comments
- Lake Nagog Beaver Trapping Permit application, staff comments and DEP comments.
- Minutes of 6-7-2021

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheryl Ball,
Acton Board of Health



William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health