



Acton Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2021
7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

Virtual Members Present: William McInnis -Chairman, Mark Conoby, Dr. William Taylor and Joanne Bissetta. Michael Kreuze was absent.

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Thomas Jacoby voted for absent Michael Kreuze and Dr. Rekha Singh was also absent.

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Diann Oster, Kim Kastens and Lucy Kirshner.

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

Vaccinations

Ms. Ball stated that we met with Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commission, MDPH last week and answered questions pertaining to the 9 community application to utilize the Kmart site as a mass vaccination clinic. Ms. Ferguson stated that our application is complete and there are 6 other communities that have also submitted an application. Ms. Ferguson also stated that obtaining vaccine is an issue at the moment and this limits how many doses are sent to other sites and the only other outstanding issue is a DPH evaluation of population density in our region to determine a need.

The Town has conducted homebound clinics but due to the pause in the J & J vaccine we halted these clinics. The pause has ended and we are now able to use this vaccine. In addition, we should also be receiving additional Moderna doses for homebound use as well.

Ms. Ball stated the current percentages of Acton residents that are vaccinated and noted that the current highest cases are in the 20-29 year old category.

Nursing Service Director Updates-

Ms. York stated that Acton currently has a total of 951 total cases, 13 in isolation, 906 recovered and 32 fatalities. Ms. York stated that we will soon start up the homebound vaccine clinics soon. Ms. York also stated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has recently changed the guidance to allow students while in the classroom to reduce social distance from 6' to 3'. Ms. York stated that household transmissions continue to be our



biggest trend with Covid positive cases. Ms. York also stated that she has hired a public health nurse to replace retired Linda Cullen.

Beaver Trapping Permit- 989 Main Street and Lake Nagog

The Health Division has received a request for two emergency permits for beaver trapping due to beaver activity with flooding occurring on said property in close proximity to the driveway and the buildings which are down gradient from the driveway for the property located at 989 Main Street and the Health Division 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 public or private way, driveway, railway or airport runway or taxi-way and flooding of residential, commercial, industrial or commercial buildings or facilities exists.

An additional 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 in Lake Nagog. 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 some residents of Concord and for the properties located in Acton along Great Road.

We have looked into alternate solutions and have determined that these sites do not meet the criteria due to the location of the beaver activity/drinking water supply 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, April 27, 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 Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to approve an emergency beaver trapping permit to the property located at 989 Main Street. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to approve an emergency beaver trapping permit to the property located within Lake Nagog. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Board of Health – COVID orders

Ms. Ball outlined current BOH COVID orders that need to be amended or modified as the State has developed further guidance that conflicts with BOH orders. The Board stated that they believe our orders should be consistent with the States and modified all orders. The Board agreed to leave the joint state of emergency in effect.

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Jacoby, the Board unanimously voted to amend all Acton Board of Health orders to read:



The Board of Health amends its orders related to COVID-19 to update, adopt and incorporate the new requirements, safety standards and restrictions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID – 19 order dated April 27, 2021. The order amendment is to modify all current Board of Health orders to be in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Order subject to its requirements and restrictions.

Article 16 – Discussion/Updates

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to Acton Board of Health Rules and Regulations, Article 16 and offered some edits. The Board stated that these changes are acceptable and asked Ms. Ball to schedule both Article 11 & 16 for public hearing prior to the end of June.

Minutes

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 29, 2021. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2021.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40 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
- Emergency Beaver Trapping Application and Recommendation
- Reopening Plan
- Minutes of 2/22/21

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health