



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2021

7:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

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

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Thomas Jacoby and Dr. Rekha Singh

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Prasad K, Richard Degon, Lori Cooney, Ann Kulsick, Joe Will and Dian Oster.

1. Opening

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:33 P.M. A script was read that was provided by the Town stating why the meetings are virtual during this crisis.

2. Regular Business

Director Operational Updates –

Reduced capacity and gathering order:

Ms. Ball stated the Governor recently extended the gathering order and the reduced capacity order until January 24, 2021. This includes an indoor capacity of 10 and outdoor of 25 and most businesses need to reduce their capacity to 25%.

Mass. Vaccination Sites:

The State is looking to open at least 4 vaccination sites spread throughout Massachusetts and the proposed areas include:

Gillette Stadium

Umass Amherst

Topsfield Fair Grounds

Big E

These are still in the planning stage and may be subject to change. The State has also asked for communities to volunteer to be a Mass Distribution Site but they must commit to vaccinating through the end of Phase 3.



Acton First Responder Vaccinations:

Acton has teamed with the Nashoba Boards of Health to administer vaccinations to our first responders on January 20 & 23rd at the Boxboro Regency. Our school nurses will be helping to vaccinate and will also receive their vaccination. The Board suggested that people volunteering at this site should all receive their vaccinations. The State does allow this. Vaccination is a hot topic right now and Ms. Ball stated that there is a priority list that we must follow.

Skatepark, Rail Trails and Conservation Areas:

Ms. Ball mentioned that the Division is no longer getting complaints from residents for users not following Governor's orders, especially face coverings. Ms. Ball stated that she has visited the skatepark on multiple occasions and only once noted two users not wearing face coverings and asked them to put them on which they promptly did. Ms. Ball questioned the Board as to whether they are still seeing users of these areas without face coverings. Ms. Bissetta stated that she walks the conservation areas often and has not encountered non-compliance. Mr. Kreuze stated that he has seen about 75% compliance but noted that bikers and joggers are more lax.

Nursing Service Director Updates-

Ms. York stated that Acton currently 590 total cases, 56 in isolation, 504 recovered and 30 fatalities. Ms. York stated that a new positive staff member at Life Care has tested positive for COVID but mentioned that it has been 31 days since they had a positive case. Ms. York stated that all residents and staff were tested again yesterday. In addition, they started administering the vaccine and gave out the first dose on 12/28/2020 and the second dose will be administered on Jan 18, 2021. Ms. York stated that Benchmark Senior Living at Robbins Brook recently had an employee test positive for COVID-19. They also recently conducted a new round of testing and 4 residents identified as positive. All residents live in the memory care unit and have been isolated from others. They are working with CVS to administer the vaccine and are hoping to begin vaccination the week of Jan 19th.

Ms. York stated that we continue to meet with the AB school district and unfortunately there have been a lot of families test positive throughout the holiday season.

Ms. York stated that anyone looking for vaccine information should visit the mass.gov website which has the most up-to-date information. The State is maintaining the priority list for vaccinations and our first responders are slated for Jan 20 & 23rd. The State constantly amends the priority list and currently home health workers are coming next. Ms. York also stated that all residents should continue to follow COVID protocols even after they are vaccinated and should continue to wear a face covering, social distance, wash hands often and avoid large crowds.



The Board asked Ms. York what the lag time was for receiving results of the test for our residents. Ms. York stated that it is currently 2-3 days. She mentioned that we are also seeing a lot of our residents self-report so this has been helpful. The Board also asked about trends and Ms. York stated that she is seeing spread throughout all ages from toddler to seniors and most are attributed to family gatherings. The Board also asked whether the school is considering pool testing and Ms. York stated that their medical director thinks it is a good idea. Funding this testing is definitely a concern. The Board agreed it was a good idea.

5 G Discussion

The Board reviewed the data submitted by Ms. Hurley at the last BOH meeting and stated that they appreciate the concerns but do not believe there is clear data on health effects and are not looking to move forward with the concern raised by Ms. Hurley. The Board asked Ms. Ball to let Ms. Hurley know.

Twin School Project – Gates and Douglas

The Board asked Mr. Martin, BOS representative to the School Project, if the school is encountering groundwater issues during construction. Mr. Martin stated that they are encountering water during the well drilling process but they are using a filtration system and placing it back into the ground. Mr. Martin also stated that all ledge work has been completed and the septic tanks are installed.

Next Meeting

The BOH schedule a meeting for December 28, 2020 if needed.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:27 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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health