



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2020

7:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

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

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Rekha Singh and Dr. Thomas Jacoby voting for absent Dr. William Taylor

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director, Matt Dow, Heather York-Nursing Director, and Eva Szkaradek

Virtual Present: Erin Bettez, John Petersen, Kelley Cronin, Diann Oster, Joe Mabardy, M. Hughes and Noah Jacoby

1. Opening

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:31 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 –

Governor Baker Updates:

Ms. Ball stated that the Governor's Office has begun to release safety plans and guidance in anticipation of Phase 2 reopening. This guidance was released to allow facilities to plan for their re-opening. Phase 2 reopening plans include, but are not limited to retail, outdoor dining, amateur youth and adult sports, childcare, pools, camps and personal care businesses. Ms. Ball stated that the Health Division has spent this last week getting these notices out to businesses to allow them ample time to comply with these orders/guidance's.

Nursing Director Update:

Ms. York stated that Acton currently has 170 positive (and presumed) cases with 32 actively in isolation, 117 recovered and 21 fatalities. Ms. York stated that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health just changed their reporting to include presumed cases but also noted that Acton has been including presumed cases in their daily updates all along. Ms. York also



updated the Board on the four residents that had received antibody testing and classified by the DPH has positive cases that were previously brought before the Board and were refusing to comply with the DPH guidance to isolate. Ms. York stated that two are off of isolation, one agreed to isolation before the BOH isolation order was served and the other person was served the order. Ms. York further mentioned that the person that was served the order went and had a PCR test that was positive and is currently on isolation.

Ms. York mentioned that Life Care has not had any new cases in the last 7 days.

Ms. York stated that the State has issued new serology guidance that now directs the Nursing Service to ask a series of questions and depending on the answers now dictate the guidance. The Board was provided a detailed copy of this new guidance. Ms. York further stated that the State has added new reporting fields to include: #'s in recovery, inpatient and outpatient psych cases, and now includes nursing audits. Ms. York also mentioned that the Governor's Phase 2 plan includes monitored outdoor visitation to be allowed at congregate facilities.

The Board thanked Heather for her work and also asked about whether the Nursing Service would be conducting resident testing. Ms. York stated that once a vaccine becomes available that they would offer a drive in service to residents but they are not equipped with the supplies needed to be a testing site. The Board also was appreciative that the Nursing Service was previously counting presumed cases and also that there was a positive outcome with the isolation order that the Board approved to send at the last meeting. The Board also asked if there were any trends in locations especially in congregate vs residential living. Ms. York stated that she currently has 20 residents from congregate living and 12 spread out in the community and also noted that most will be coming off of isolation soon.

Athletic Fields Re-opening Discussion/Approval

Ms. Ball stated that the Town has received written guidance from the State in regards to the re-opening of the Athletic Fields. This guidance stated that athletic fields are allowed to open for non-contact sports and the users do not have to be from the same household. The Board stated that they were grateful to receive this guidance as there was a lot of conflicting information. The Board was generally in agreement to reopen the fields as long as safety protocols and state issued guidance is followed and appropriate signage with clear rules need to be placed on the fields prior to opening. Ms. Ball indicated that she would discuss these requirements with both the school and the Acton recreation department prior to opening. On a motion made by Dr. Jacoby, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board voted to allow the re-opening of athletic fields as long as strict adherence to the State's guidance and safety protocols are met. The Chair polled the Board and the vote was 4 ayes to 1 nay. Motion passes.

Geothermal Well Discussion

Mr. McInnis stated that he asked this to be placed on the agenda for Board discussion. Mr. McInnis stated that Town Counsel has given staff an informal opinion stating that Article 9 does



not address geothermal wells and asked the Board if they would like to continue issuing these permits. The Board was in consensus to revise Article 9 so that the Board can take a look at future applications and issue appropriate conditions so those protections are in place. Ms. Ball stated that staff will revise article 9, bring to the Board for discussion and schedule a public hearing for Board approval. Mr. Martin stated that the new twin school and the new Fire station are planning to install geothermal wells and asked the Board about permitting. The Board stated that the well permit is issued to the site not the amount of wells drilled. The Board asked Ms. Ball to get clarification prior to making the amendments so that all concerns are addressed as we expect these wells to become more common.

Senior Housing Visitation Advisory

Ms. Ball stated that the Governor has now allowed visitation to Nursing and Rest homes and asked the Board to consider revising their advisory to limit visitors at Senior Housing. The Board stated that our advisory should be similar to the Governor's order. Kelley Cronin, Housing Director, was present and thanked the Board for all they have done and stated that her residents were pleased with the assistance. A draft motion was presented to the Board for consideration. On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Dr. Jacoby, the Board unanimously voted approves the amended advisory dated June 3, 2020 that allows visitation at Senior Housing as long as safety protocols are met. The Chair took Roll Call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting – The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020.

3. Minutes:

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr Singh, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of May 27, 2020. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

4. Adjournment


On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:46 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
- Various Plans for outdoor exercise programs
- BOH revised Visitation at Senior Housing Advisory
- Serology Interpretation from the State
- Memo from Recreation Director to Open Athletic Fields
- Various emails residents
- Minutes from May 27, 2020.



Respectfully Submitted,



Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health



William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health