



Acton Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2020
7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

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

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Rekha Singh

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

Virtual Present: Peg Mikkola, David Martin, Terra Friedrichs, Tack Palmer, Dave Lunger, Marion Maxwell, Diann Oster, Kevin Curley, Jane M., Joe Will, and Corrine Hogseth

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 crisis.

2. Regular Business

Director Update: COVID-19 Updates to Residents -

Ms. Ball updated the Board regarding Health Division activities since the last meeting:

- BOH Meeting Schedule - Ms. Ball stated that a new updated meeting schedule was sent to the Board with two notable changes. These changes are adding a meeting on Monday, May 18, 2020 and adding a meeting on Wednesday May 27, 2020.
- Governor Baker Press Release – The Governor today outlined a phased approach to reopening by following industry and generic workplace safety standards. The Governor expects to outline the plan on Monday, May 18th. He stated the goal was to reopen as safely as possible and cautioned that the plan may be amended if problems arise. He also stated that Massachusetts is now reporting 4% hospitalizations down considerably, and that testing should continue to be increased.



- **Governor Baker Non-essential Business Update** – Ms. Ball stated the Governor has also recently allowed employees to enter non-essential businesses to help fulfill online orders, however, the building must stay closed to the public and the employees must follow social distancing, face coverings, staggered shifts and no-contact deliveries.
1. **Nursing Service Update** – Ms. York stated that the current COVID-19 positive numbers at Life care is 56 residents and 17 staff. Ms. York spoke about why the increase in numbers compared to the last update and stated that the incubation period is 2-14 days and the residents may have become symptomatic during that phase and when retested tested positive. She also spoke about how they are separating all people into isolation, clean and quarantined units within the facility.
The overall positive numbers in Acton are currently 136 with 68 under isolation and being monitored.
Ms. York also clarified that when she speaks about Robbins Brook she is only speaking to the area known as Benchmark Robbins Brook Assisted Living congregate housing and not the condos or single family homes located within the Robbins Brook community. Robbins Brook currently has 5 residents and 4 staff that are COVID -19 positive.
Ms. York also mentioned the phasing back in plan that the Governor outlined today. Ms. York stated that Acton currently has an adequate supply of PPE's and her staff is doing well with the needed contact tracing. The Board asked if Life care has adequate staffing available since 17 are positive. Ms. York stated that they have adequate staff. Ms. York also stated that residents taking the antibody test are being reported by the state as COVID-19 positive. The Board also expressed their concerns with the antibody tests and Ms. York offered to send updated information. The Board stated that the State needs to clarify when reporting that the positive result is coming from an antibody test. The Board also asked about community spread and if there are trends that she could mention. Ms. York stated that they are seeing spread amongst families living in the same household, congregate housing and others are varied. Members of the audience asked how many cases are active. Ms. York stated that out of the 68 under isolation, 56 of them are from Life care.
 2. **Athletic –Non contact sports ,Tennis** –The Governor recently allowed golf courses to open with safety provisions and also in the State's FAQ's, they have placed the following question:
Are tennis courts allowed to stay open if people maintain social distancing? The answer states, "The Governor's order prohibiting assemblages of more than 10 people applies to all



athletic events. Athletic activities that bring participants into close, physical contact, whether they are conducted indoors or outdoors, are prohibited even when involving 10 or fewer people". Kevin Curly owns a tennis business and stated that this should allow tennis courts that are monitored to be open as tennis is a non- contact sport similar to golf. Mr. Curly outlined a plan that addresses protective measures. The Board discussed whether this should pertain to monitored courts only and stated a plan would need to be in place to monitor public courts before they could be open. Ms. Ball stated that she has spoken with the Recreation Director about this but will ask her to provide a plan prior to Board consideration of opening them. The Board discussed this request and while some were in favor, with the provisions in place, others mentioned that there is a stay at home advisory and this is considered a non-essential business. The Board stated that they would revisit this request at the next meeting when there is further guidance from the Governor's office about re-opening. Members of the public stated that the Board needs to consider opening all courts and not just private ones so the public can access them.

2. Next Meeting – The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2020.

3. Minutes:

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of May 5, 2020. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.


4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:00 PM. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

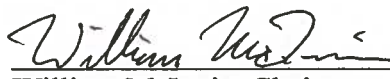
Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting;

- Town of Acton script for boards and committees opening meeting
- Board of Health agenda
- Governor Baker – Reopening Advisory
- Memo from Health Division – Tennis courts
- Minutes from May 5, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health



William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health