



Acton Board of Health

Special Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 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. Thomas Jacoby and Dr. Rekha Singh

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

Virtual Present: Dave Lunger, Steve Long, Peg Mikkola, Dian Oster, David Martin, Terra Friedrichs, Marc Duci, Constantine Kozhukhir, Padmaja Bokkisam and V Sharma.

a. 1. Opening

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Mr. McInnis stated that the Board's next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, April 16 and Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

2. Regular Business

Director Update: COVID-19 Updates to Residents -

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

- Construction Order – Ms. Ball stated that the Building Commissioner drove around town last Friday and checked to ensure that construction sites were following the protocol. The Building Commissioner informed staff that he sent two sites home for not having proper PPE.
- Educational Information at Arboretum, Rail Trails and Construction Areas - Ms. Ball stated that thanks to Natural Resources and Steve Long and his group all the conservation areas were posted on the weekend. The Rail Trails will be



posted tomorrow and the Arboretum still needs the one way signs posted which will be done tomorrow as well.

- Food Establishments – Ms. Ball stated that Matthew Dow sent a detail food establishment notice to all licensed facilities this morning with recommendations to ensure their employees and patron’s safety. These recommendations include strong recommendations to make aisles one way, for everyone to wears face mask, entry doors be posted with social distancing protocols, etc. In addition, for our stores that are offering take-out, we have asked that they limit contact with customers by asking for payment ahead of time or offer curbside pickup.
 - Gov. Baker latest update– Ms. Ball stated that the State is now offering incentives to businesses that can change what they were manufacturing to needed PPE’s, thermometers and swabs. This initiative is called Manufacturer Emergency Process Response Effort.
 - Face Masks - Ms. Ball also mentioned that the CDC and Governor Baker have recommended that all wear face masks while in public. Ms. Ball questioned whether the Board would like to order that face masks be worn as staff have received multiple complaints from our residents asking why employees of stores aren’t required to wear them. The Board discussed this concern and stated that their guidance would be to have health staff strongly encourage that everyone wear some form of face covering.
1. Nursing Service Update – Ms. York stated that her staff has been busy with disease tracing as there is new guidance that requires tracing to start 48 hours before a person becomes symptomatic. Ms. York also agreed with the Board’s strong recommendation to have employees and patrons wear face coverings. Ms. York stated that Acton has 39 positive cases of COVID-19 with 27 currently in quarantine and 12 off. Ms. York also stated that we recently received PPE from MEMA. Ms. York further stated that we let MEMA know our current inventory and they disperse items to Massachusetts cities/towns according to need. Ms. York also mentioned that she has spoken to Life Care Center and is pleased with the policies they have in place to safeguard their residents. Ms. York also mentioned that testing can be done onsite if residents become symptomatic with the swab sent to Emerson lab for testing. Ms. York also mentioned



anything. Ms. York stated they are handling the workload but thanked the Board. Ms. York also stated that she is also conducting contact tracing for residents that have self reported. The Board asked how often Ms. York was in contact with positive cases. Ms. York stated that depends on each person's symptoms but she noted that are contacting them more than the required state recommendation. The Board thanked Ms. York for all that she and her staff are doing during this difficult time. Members of the audience thanked staff as well and asked all to get rest and take care of themselves.

3. Minutes:

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of April 9, 2020. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:15 PM. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting;

- Food Establishment Notice
- Minutes from April 9, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball

Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis

William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health