



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

**Present:**

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

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

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Eva Szkaradek, Jim Snyder-Grant, Max, Chris Foye, Prasad K, Joe Will, Peg Mikkola, Lori Cooney and David Martin.

**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 –**

Ms. Ball stated that we are continuing to receive complaints regarding the users of the skate park not wearing face coverings. The Board asked staff to verify the complaints and bring back to the Board.

Ms. Ball mentioned that there is a large soccer event this coming weekend at the school athletic fields. Ms. Ball mentioned that she reached out to the organizers and stated that they have developed stringent COVID safety protocols which were reviewed by staff. The Board asked for additional measures that included; bench be disinfected between use as well as designate a separate area away from others for water breaks since masks can't be worn while drinking water. The Board was in agreement to allow the event.

Ms. Ball stated that there is a business in Acton with a positive case of COVID and in speaking with them prior to the Thanksgiving break thought they were following State Guidelines to close for a deep clean and identify close contacts of the positive case. Ms. Ball did not receive the follow up phone call from them so reached out to them again today and this time spoke with the owner. While speaking with the owner, he identified that they did not close for the



deep clean as required and also mentioned there were two cases. Ms. Ball stated that the owner told her that he only followed the guidance from doctors and unless she had a medical degree, he would not follow her recommendations even though it was explained that these guidelines need to be followed and the BOH was tasked with enforcement. Ms. Ball stated that she also received a complaint from the Department of Labor Standards (DLS) so upon learning that the owner did not follow BOH advice, reached back out to the State for assistance. The Board discussed this and stated that the goal is compliance with COVID guidelines. Ms. Ball stated that she would speak with the DLS tomorrow to identify what their recommendations are and follow up with the Board.

#### **Nursing Service Director Updates-**

Ms. York stated that Acton currently has 337 positive cases and 47 in active isolation. Ms. York also stated that we have positive cases of residents at Life Care and positive cases of staff at Robbins Brook senior living. Ms. York stated that she is working with the State epidemiologist assigned to Life Care and the Director of Life care noting that they have shut down visitors/admissions and have residents in separate areas. Ms. York asked the director of Life care to join us tonight to speak with the Board.

Ms. York stated that she is nervous about what the Thanksgiving celebration will bring in the next two weeks as she is noting that trends of positive cases are still amongst household spread and family dinners. The Board asked Ms. York if other group homes have been affected. Ms. York stated that she has one other.

#### **Life care of Acton – Director Updates – Chris Foye**

Mr. Foye updated the Board with cases of COVID-19 at Life care Center of Acton. Mr. Foye stated that there are currently 28 cases with 5 in the hospital and all from the same unit. Mr. Foye stated that they have taken measures to help prevent further increase, including, 4 separate areas for residents and designated areas for staff. They are also testing both residents and staff frequently which Life care pays for. The Board asked how the first case started and Mr. Foye stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> case was a resident. Mr. Foye also stated that he notified Ms. York, Police, Fire and the local hospital immediately. The Board also asked if he has enough staff and if the staff is currently working in multiple facilities. Mr. Foye stated that he has staff that has recovered from the virus working in the COVID positive area, utilizing proper PPE and that staff are not being shared. Mr. Foye also stated that he has sufficient staff. Mr. Foye stated that he believes that visitation and family members taking their loved ones out may have been how it got back into the facility. The Board thanked Mr. Foye for the update.



## **23 Mohawk Drive – Title 5**

The Health Division is in receipt of two conflicting Title 5 inspection reports for the property located at 23 Mohawk Drive, Acton. One report indicates failure and the other indicates a conditional pass with the replacement of the D Box. Ms. Ball stated that we received a call from the homeowner asking us to come look at the DBox after the initial inspection that resulted in a failure. Mr. Carloni went to the site and noted that the D Box was filled with sand and broken concrete and did note some carryover but stated with the debris it was hard to determine. The homeowner then hired another Title 5 inspector who conditionally passed the Title 5 and required that the D Box be replaced. The new D Box was installed and inspected by the Health Division where Mr. Carloni stated that the SAS adequately accepted the water that was introduced. Based on this inspection the Health Division would recommend that the Board accept the conditional pass Title 5. The Board discussed this and stated that they want the record to reflect these issues so that the next homeowner can be aware. On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Singh, the Board unanimously voted to accept the conditional pass title 5 inspection report issued by Curtis Septic. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

## **Emergency Beaver Trapping Permit – 183 Arlington Street and 989 Main Street**

Ms. Ball stated that there are two emergency beaver trapping permits for the properties located at 183 Arlington Street and 989 Main Street. The property located at 183 Arlington Street is causing flooding that is affecting multiple properties septic systems on Houghton Lane as well as the new twin school property. The property located at 989 Main Street is causing flooding of the driveway, dumpster and approaching the dwelling.

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to grant an emergency 10 day beaver trapping permit to 183 Arlington Street and 989 Main Street to allow for trapping and breaching of the dams at these two sites. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

## **Minutes**

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes dated November 16, 2020. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Singh, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes dated November 23, 2020 with corrections. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

## **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on for December 14, 2020. The chair asked that we add a meeting on December 7, 2020 if needed.



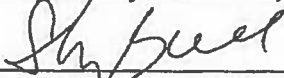
#### **4. Adjournment**


On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:45 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
- 23 Mohawk Drive – 2 Title 5, letter from staff
- Beaver trapping permit requests– applications from 989 Main and 183 Arlington St, letter from staff for both properties
- Minutes from November 16 and 23, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Sheryl Ball  
Acton Board of Health

  
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William McInnis- Chairman,  
Acton Board of Health