



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2022

7:30 PM.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

Virtual Members Present: William McInnis, Dr. William Taylor, Dr. Jacoby and Mr. Conoby
Michael Kreuze was not present.

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Singh voting for absent Michael Kreuze

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director, Heather York, Nursing Director

Others Present: Sharon Martens, Leo Ruczek and Himaja Nagireddy, Select Board liaison

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 pandemic and this emergency meeting of the Board of Health was called to order.

2. Regular Business

Health Director Update

Ms. Ball stated that we have been watching the numbers closely and haven't had a spike since the beginning of January. Ms. Ball stated that our numbers are in line with the State's and the biggest positive age group is the 20-29 followed by the 30-39.

Nursing – Update

Ms. York stated that are numbers are level and the only trends we are seeing are scattered households. Ms. York also mentioned that we are still following the States prioritization list for contact tracing. Ms. York also stated that both Senior Living at Benchmark and Life Care center have not had a positive case since we last met. Ms. York also stated that the CDC is now recommending a second booster shot for those over 50 or for those that are immunocompromised as noted below:

- A **2nd booster** dose of Pfizer or Moderna may be administered to individuals **50 years of age and older who wish to increase their individual protection, at least 4 months** after receipt of a first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- A **2nd booster** dose of Pfizer or Moderna may be administered to individuals **ages 18–49 years** who are **not** moderately or severely immunocompromised and who **received Janssen/J&J COVID-19 Vaccine as both** their primary series dose and their booster dose, **at least 4 months** after the first **Janssen/J&J** booster dose



- A 2nd booster dose of Pfizer (ages 12+) or Moderna (ages 18+) may be administered to persons 12 – 49 years of age who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and who wish to increase their individual protection.

Mr. McInnis asked Ms. York if there is a number that the State is looking at that would bring us from a low transmission rate to a higher rate. Ms. York stated that MDPH looks at the combination of three metrics that include, new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the last 7 days, the percent of occupied inpatient beds at hospitals by COVID patients and total new cases of COVID per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. Ms. York stated that a strain on the hospitals would possible trigger us to go to a higher bracket but there is no set number.

Variance – State Plumbing Code – 530 Main Street – Household Goods

The Health Division has received a request to support a Plumbing Code Variance to allow for three - 3.5 gpf toilets at the facility located at 530 Main Street. The property houses Household Goods and they have experienced significant clogs due to the long pipe to the leaching area. The town's plumbing inspector, their plumber and the drain clogging company have recommended that we grant this approval as additional water flow is needed to prevent future clogs. The Health Division reviewed this request and finds that the permitted flow of the septic system is well beyond the current water usage and can accommodate this additional flow. Mr. Ruczek, Facilities manager for Household Goods stated that these bathrooms were recently upgraded to the low flow toilets and prior to that they did not experience clogs but since the upgrade they have experienced three significant clogging incidents in one year. The Board asked if the lines were snaked and if lack of pitch in the line was a factor. Ms. Ball stated that a camera was placed down the line and no issues were found. On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Jacoby, the Board unanimously voted to recommend the variance request with the following conditions:

1. This request will need to be approved by the Commonwealth of Mass., Division of Professional Licensure.
2. The Health Division will require that water records be submitted annually to ensure that the current permitted flow for the septic system is not exceeded. If at any time water records show that the permitted flow is exceeded further action by the Board will be required.
3. Approval is limited to three toilets and cannot exceed 3.5 gpf per toilet and any change in use or expansion will require additional approval.
4. The septic tank shall be pumped once every two years as required by local and state code.

The chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Minutes – March 22, 2022

On a motion made by Dr. Jacoby, seconded by Dr. Singh, the Board voted to accept the minutes of March 22, 2022. The Chair took roll call and the vote was 4-0-1(abstention).



Other Information

Ms. Ball stated that the town is looking to create wastewater districts and will be bringing this forward to a future meeting. The Board stated that many years ago the Board championed for sewer and took a look at wastewater trends. Ms. Ball stated that the Town is looking at more than sewer and would like to include policies and procedures for maintaining septic systems as well. The Board asked Ms. Ball to identify the goal for wastewater districts/disposal and bring back to the Board.

Next Meeting

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2022.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Jacoby, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:05 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
- Plumbing Code variance request and health comments
- Minutes from 3-22-22

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health