



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

May 3, 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, Jill Salamon, Public Health Nurse

Others Present: Danny Factor

1. Opening

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:34 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 Ms. Jill Salamon is filling in for Heather this evening and she will update the Board. Ms. Ball stated that Massachusetts has vaccinated over 5 million residents with the COVID vaccine. 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

Jill Salamon, public health nurse filled it for Ms. York who was unable to make it tonight. Ms. Salamon stated that we currently have 52 documented cases of COVID in Acton and are currently focused on contact tracing for the very young and older population. The school nurses are following all school aged children including those that either have a positive PCR or home test. Ms. Salamon also stated that she spoke with the State Epidemiologist and they stated that about 28% of the positive cases are sent out for sequencing. Ms. Salamon stated that Senior Living at Benchmark has no known positive cases and will be conducting a second booster dose clinic in conjunction with Acton Pharmacy. Unfortunately, Life Care center had two positive staff that tested positive during surveillance testing and thankfully asymptomatic. In addition the residents that were in close proximity to the staff are being tested every 48 hours for 7 days and all Life Care residents and staff are considered fully vaccinated. Ms. Salamon also reported that Emerson Hospital now has a visiting public health nurse and they currently have 6 positive COVID cases in the hospital and none are in the ICU. Ms. Salamon stated that she will be doing a COVID public discussion on two days with one for the public and one for town employees.



Mr. McInnis asked if there is a number that the State is looking at that would increase Acton's risk level as our numbers are similar to our high numbers one (1) year ago. Ms. Salamon stated that COVID 2022 is very different than COVID -2020 and we are seeing milder like symptoms and our focus is on getting our residents vaccinated and we have treatment modality that is focused on the different strains, people typically have milder symptoms, testing is widely available, etc. Ms. Salamon read an excerpt from CDC stating that they can't protect all from the virus so we should focus on continuing to limit the spread and focus on those that are most at risk. There is no state threshold that will cause our metric to change and the CDC is now looking at the strain on the health care system and not the number of cases but staff will continue to monitor any changes. Mr. McInnis is looking for the Board to be more proactive and is looking at when the Board may need to take further action. The Board also asked about contact tracing and Ms. Salamon stated that some people love a call from us and others don't call us back so it is mixed bag so we work to make sure isolation and quarantine guidance is available to all.

Ms. Ball stated that the Nursing Service is celebrating their 100th anniversary on Thursday, May 10th from 4-6!

Mr. Danny Factor thanked everyone for all that we are doing to protect everyone during this pandemic and asked if there were any new deaths. Ms. Salamon stated that we have unfortunately had 32 deaths, however this number has not changed in 1 ½ years.

Emergency Beaver Trapping Permit – Acton Water District – 693 Mass. Ave.

The Health Division has received a request for an emergency permit for beaver trapping due to beaver activity with flooding occurring behind the Acton Water District Property located at 693 Mass. Ave. and threatening flooding of drinking water wells, well fields or water pumping stations. The Health Division conducted an inspection of these areas along with the Natural Resources Director and has confirmed that in accordance with the Rules and Regulations that a threat to Human Health and Safety by beaver or muskrat-caused flooding of a drinking water well exists.

Ms. Ball stated that this site is not a candidate for alternative solutions other than trapping due to the impact of the Town's drinking water supply and the threat of introducing potential diseases which beavers are known to carry. The Health Division recommends that the Board of Health approve a 10-day emergency permit, beginning on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, giving the licensed trapper and its agent the right to use restricted traps and breach the dams or dikes subject to the conditions of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Conoby asked if this is a repeat area and its been about 1 year since the last request.

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to grant an emergency beaver trapping permit to the Acton Water District located at 693 Mass. Ave. beginning on May 4, 2022 for a period of 10 days giving the licensed trapper the right to use restricted traps and breach the dam or dikes.

The chair took roll call and all were in favor.



Human Services Committee

The Acton Select Board recently established a Human Services Committee to support, strengthen and empower Acton residents by ensuring access to community-based health and human services and have asked for representation from the BOH to sit on that committee. Ms. Ball asked the Board who would like to participate in this newly formed committee. Mr. Conoby and Dr. Jacoby both volunteered. The Board asked Ms. Ball to present both names to the committee.

Acton Convenience – 465 Great Road – Tobacco Violation

Ms. Ball stated that Acton Convenience located at 465 Great Road sold a minor tobacco product on March 8, 2022. The Health Division sent them a letter to appear before the Board this evening but no one was present. The Board asked Ms. Ball to notify the owners and express their displeasure for not attending. Ms. Ball indicated that she would. The Board asked if this was a first offense and Ms. Ball stated that they did have a previous violation years ago under a different owner so this is a 1st offense. In addition, as per Acton Rules and Regulations a fine letter was sent to the establishment. Ms. Ball will ensure that this is paid.

Acton Board of Health Rules and Regulations – Proposed Changes to Article 2 – Discussion

The Health Division updated Board of Health Rules and Regulations, Article 2, to ensure that these regulations are in line with the State of Massachusetts current solid waste bans and to better strengthen the need to recycling those banned items in the Town of Acton. The Board discussed the proposed changes and asked Ms. Ball to add both a severability and variance provision and once that is done to send to all licensed Commercial Haulers for their input. Once Ms. Ball receives these comments the Board asked Ms. Ball to schedule a public hearing.

Acton Spa and Bodywork – 481 Great Road – Unit 106 – Show Cause Hearing- Revocation of Permit

Acton Spa and Bodywork located at 481 Great Road, Unit 106 who was recently permitted by the Health Division for a Body Work establishment and 2 practitioner permits allowed a third unlicensed practitioner to work at their establishment. The Health Division believes that this is a public health threat and recommends that the Board revoke their permit. Prior to the Health Division granting this permit, we had multiple meetings with the owner and a representative where we went over the regulations with them. Once they met all the required documentation an inspection was conducted by the Health Division and the permit was granted. The Health Division issued a show cause order in which the owners were invited to this meeting but did not appear. Some Board members wondered if revocation was extreme but it was pointed out that the premises have since been abandoned, they broke conditions of their fairly recently granted permit and if they feel they have been unjustly treated, there is an appeal process for them to have a hearing before the Board. On a motion made by Dr. Jacoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the



Board unanimously voted to revoke the bodywork establishment and practitioner license to Acton Spa and Bodywork located at 481 Great Road, Unit 106 effective immediately. The chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Minutes – April 5, 2022

On a motion made by Dr. Jacoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board voted to accept the minutes of April 5, 2022. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2022.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Jacoby, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:59 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
- Emergency Beaver trapping permit application, map and recommendations from Health staff
- Human services committee notification
- Tobacco Violation notice and letter from Health staff
- Proposed changes to Article 2
- Acton Spa and Bodywork. Show cause order and Health staff recommendations
- Minutes from 4-5-22

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health



William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health