



## Acton Board of Health

### Meeting Minutes

March 30, 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, Matthew Dow, John Mangiaratti and Matthew Selby

Virtual Present: David Martin, Terra Friedrichs, Greg Bishop, Bettina Abe, Mr. Davidson, Diann Oster,

#### **1. Opening**

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

#### **2. Regular Business**

Director Update: COVID-19 Updates to Residents - The Health Director asked the Board if they would like the Town to continue to update the residents regarding the confirmed cases of COVID-19. The Board stated that this should continue to be done to ensure our residents are informed.

#### **B.COVID-19/Corona Virus**

1. Acton Nursing Service Update - Ms. York stated that Acton currently has 4 positive cases of COVID-19 and all are home quarantined. Ms. York also mentioned that in the last few weeks additional residents have completed quarantine. Ms. York stated that currently Middlesex County has the highest numbers of positive cases in Massachusetts. Ms. York also stated that there has been an uptick in testing with 10,000 tests administered in the last 48 hours. Ms. York stated that she has received numerous calls asking where the positive cases are located but that is protected health information and can't be shared with our residents. Ms. York has also reached out to the Superintendent



of Schools and is hoping to possibly share the school nurses with the Nursing Service. The Board mentioned that the Trump Administration is asking for mandatory nationwide reporting from hospitals regarding supplies and bed capacity and they are in the process of collecting that information now. There was also discussion that residents may be hesitant to share their health information and Ms. York assured the Board that this information would be kept confidential and shared only with medical professionals. The Board asked Ms. York if she has received PPE. Ms. York stated that she currently has masks and gloves but no gowns or face shields. The Board once again thanked Ms. York for her update. Members of the audience thanked Ms. York as well and offered a donation of masks. Ms. York stated to have them contact her.

2. Affirmation of Town Field Closure – The Board discussed the current status of town, school field and playground closures. Mr. Conoby stated that there has to be a clear and consistent message to our residents regarding the current closure and abiding by social distancing as complaints regarding people congregating at these areas have been received by the Health Division. The goal of the Board is to protect public health and educate our residents. The Board also stated that if social distancing can't be achieved at the parks, then the Board may be forced to take further action to keep the community safe by closing rail trails and conservation areas. Members of the audience were not in support of these additional closures. The Board advised staff to implement additional measures at all town, school and playground areas in order to better educate our residents of the need to social distance and not congregate while at these facilities. On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to affirm the current closure of playgrounds and town and school fields and implement, at a minimum, the following measures:

- Post Message Boards and prominent signs with notification of playground and field closures and direct people to maintain 6 feet between others.
- Lock any fenced in areas at all town owned fields or playgrounds. Areas without fence should be either barricaded from entrance, snow fenced or caution taped.
- Place caution tape around or remove any seated areas for any place where people can congregate in all town owned fields and playgrounds.
- Place sawhorse and signage at both entrances to parking lots indicating in large lettering that NARA is closed except for the walking path.
- Limit parking by closing a portion of both NARA parking lots with cones or sawhorses.

The Board further instructed staff to report back to the Board at the next meeting. The Board also reminded residents that the Governor has asked that residents stay home during this crisis and only leave your home to address essential needs. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.



3. Board extension of public buildings closure – Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Ms. Ball asked the Board to extend the Board's voted to keep all public buildings closed. On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to keep all public buildings closed until the Public Health Emergency order has been lifted. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.
4. Approval of Town Wide Mailing - The Board reviewed the edits to the Town Wide Mailing and made some additional edits to include, Town Election information as well as a line in English above the translation section. Dr. Taylor also stated that Town officials have reviewed the letter and also made some minor edits. Dr. Taylor stated that our residents should be informed with reliable information and felt this letter should be sent immediately. The letter will be sent to all resident's homes as well as through any electronic measures. Members of the audience questioned why the Board changed the mailing from 70+ to all residents. The Board stated it was important that all of our residents receive this information. The Board thanked Dr. Taylor for all of his hard work and dedication. On a motion made by Dr. Taylor. seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to send out this letter with corrections to all residents of the Town of Acton. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.
5. Community Garden – The Board stated that the Community Gardens can be open as long as social distancing can be achieved.
6. Construction Policy/Order – Staff asked the Board to clarify the construction policy/order that was voted at a previous Board meeting. The Chair advised staff to place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

**3. Minutes:**

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of March 19, 2020 with corrections. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of March 26, 2020 with corrections. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

**4. Adjournment**

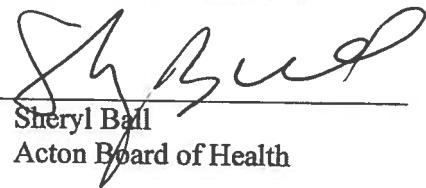
On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:17 PM.

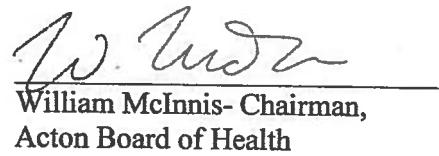


**Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:**

- BOH message regarding Field Closure
- Town Wide Mailing Letter
- Minutes from March 19 and March 26, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Sheryl Ball  
Acton Board of Health

  
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William McInnis- Chairman,  
Acton Board of Health