



Acton Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2021
7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

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

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Thomas Jacoby and Dr. Rekha Singh

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Diann Oster, Bettina Abe, Tom Tidman, Michael Callahan, Kaarin Jeanson, Betsy, Peg Mikkola.

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.

2. Regular Business

Director Operational Updates –

Today the Baker-Polito Administration's First in the Nation COVID-19 Pooled Testing Initiative found 0.7% Positivity Rate in public schools. Massachusetts schools have tested nearly 159,000 individuals in 22,679 pools with a pool positivity rate of 0.76 percent to date; it should be noted that Acton currently has a 0% positivity rate.

MassNotify - The State has been piloting this program and it is a public health communication tool designed to alert users when they may have been exposed to COVID-19. It is anonymous, secure & privacy-focused. When two people who are signed up for Mass. Notify are near each other, their smartphones exchange random codes using Bluetooth. When someone tests positive, they will receive a text from the DPH with a verification link, then the person who tests positive can opt to share their results anonymously with other mass notify users and then others that use mass notify will then get an alert that they may have been exposed and notification will include what to do next.

Sports

The State has recently seen wrestling and cheerleading on the rise and an uptick in overall clusters. Hockey is still seeing more activity than other sports in Massachusetts but we are also seeing an increase in baseball, football, soccer and lacrosse. Acton has seen cases in hockey and basketball.



Phase 4- Step 1

Effective Monday, March 22, all communities in **Massachusetts** will move into Step 1 of **Phase IV** of the state's **reopening** plan.

- Indoor and outdoor stadiums
- Arenas
- Ballparks

Also effective on March 22, gathering limits for event venues and in public settings will increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in private backyards will remain at a maximum of 25 people, with indoor house gatherings remaining at 10 people.

Massachusetts Travel Order will be replaced with a Travel Advisory

The new travel advisory will urge all persons entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival if they have been out of the state for 24 hours or more. This was changed from a requirement to an advisory.

The advisory does not apply to anyone in the following categories:

- Anyone who is returning to Massachusetts after an absence of fewer than 24 hours.
- Travelers who have a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72 hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts.
- Workers who enter Massachusetts to perform critical infrastructure functions (as specified by the Federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) while they are commuting to or from or while at work.
- Travelers who are fully vaccinated (i.e. who have received two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines OR who have received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, 14 days or more ago and who do not have symptoms).

Vaccinations

Ms. Ball stated that we are still awaiting approval from the DPH regarding the opening of a mass vaccination site in Acton. This is a multi-town approach and we reached out to DPH today regarding the decision but have not heard back. The plan and correspondence from State Representatives are in your packet under extra information.

We have also been collecting data on our homebound residents that are in need of a mobile clinic. If anyone knows someone please give the health division a call.



We also have a second dose clinic scheduled for Friday, April 2nd at the Senior Housing at Windsor Green.

The Board asked Ms. Ball when we expect a decision by the State to be a mass vaccination site. Ms. Ball stated hopefully soon. The Board also suggested we speak to doctor offices, Laura Ducharme to help identify those that are homebound.

Nursing Service Director Updates-

Ms. York stated that Acton currently has a total of 842 total cases, 15 in isolation, 795 recovered and 32 fatalities. Ms. York stated that we are seeing cases amongst basketball teams and thankfully no additional hockey since the last Board meeting. Ms. York stated that we offered a second dose clinic at the Junior High on Saturday, March 20 and we also had Acton Pharmacy run a concurrent clinic and were able to vaccinate 130 first doses. Ms. York also mentioned that we are conducting homebound clinics and have purchased a regulated cooler capable of keeping the vaccine at negative 30 degrees. Ms. York stated that household transmissions continue to be our biggest trend with covid positive cases. The Board asked if we have seen the new variants in Acton. Ms. York stated that we haven't heard any specific cases related to the new variants. Dr. Taylor stated that these are more costly to test for.

Beaver Trapping Permit- Mohegan Road & Alternative Trapping Discussion

A request has been made of an emergency permit for beaver trapping due to beaver activity with flooding occurring on said property in close proximity to multiple septic systems located behind Mohegan and Cherokee Road. The Health Department 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 multiple residential septic systems exist at the properties located behind 29 Mohegan and Cherokee Road with flooding occurring on said properties. Based on this information, the Health Department recommends that the Board of Health approve a 10 day emergency permit, beginning on March 30, 2021 for the properties located behind 29 Mohegan Road and Cherokee Road 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.

The Board also welcomed Tom Tidman, Natural Resource Director, Bettina Abe and Michael Callahan, Beaver Solutions to discuss alternatives to trappings. Mr. Callahan stated that there are options and he is currently working with Natural Resources to install a diversion dam at the Jenks Property (another property with beaver issues). Mr. Callahan also provided the Board with some literature on options that he can assist with. Unfortunately the property noted above is not that accessible and bringing in equipment to offer a solution is not viable and trapping would be needed.



On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to approve an emergency beaver trapping permit to the property located behind Mohegan Road. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Re-opening Plan

The Board reviewed the proposed reopening of town buildings plan and offered the following comments:

1. Reopen plan based on current public health metrics and may be subject to change if the public health situation changes or the State changes their guidance
2. The Town must develop a written response plan in the event an employee tests positive, including but not limited to, special cleaning protocols, employee and public interaction for assessing close contacts, quarantine provisions, etc.
3. Prior to reopening town buildings - Provide disinfection wipes, plexiglass barriers, signage on floors or walls (for social distancing), hand sanitizer, required covid signage, availability of masks, sign in sheet and/or other tracking measures.

The Board was in consensus with this plan.

Minutes

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of 2-22-2021. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021.

4. Adjournment

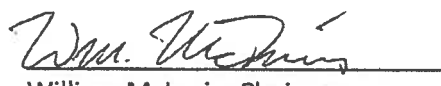
On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:36 PM. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting;

- Town of Acton script for boards and committees opening meeting
- Board of Health agenda
- Emergency Beaver Trapping Application and Recommendation
- Reopening Plan
- Minutes of 2/22/21

Respectfully Submitted,


Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health


William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health