



Acton Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
October 5, 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 voting for absent Michael Kreuze and Dr. Rekha Singh

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director

Virtual Present: Chuck Adam, Nicole Voss, Steven Ventresca, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Joe Will, and Marie Altieri.

1. Opening

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:31 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 informed the Board that Green Acton is hosting a meeting about PFAS and Acton Water on October 14th from 7-8:30 PM. Speaking will be three panelists: Dan Groher, Sandra Baird and Matt Mosteller.

Ms. Ball mentioned that AB School District has had a positive COVID case and outlined the schools protocol that was discussed by the Schools, Health Division and Acton Nursing Service that includes:

1. Confirmation of positive case and notification of a close contact
2. The school has three letters that they send out which include, one to send to positive contacts, one that is sent to all families for positive case but no close contact and the final letter is for all families for a positive case no close contact and the child was not in school.

The General Public is not notified but DESE is publishing weekly numbers for both students and staff that the public can view.

Ms. Ball also stated that a face covering complaint investigation was conducted at the High School after receiving a complaint that sports participants were not using face coverings. Ms. Ball had a lengthy conversation with the athletic director who is spending most days walking around to all the sports games and practices and enforcing the face covering order or social



distancing. Ms. Ball stated that she witnessed all sports groups either socially distant, with face coverings or both. Ms. Ball also spoke the Police who will help with enforcement.

Ms. Ball announced that Household Hazardous Waste Day was held on Thursday, October 1st and we serviced 118 vehicles. The previous event serviced 404 vehicles so 522 in total.

Ms. Ball stated that Acton is a COVID shaded green community as identified by the state weekly metrics and Marlborough is the closest community to us in red. Since Acton is not a high risk town, we have proceeded ahead to Phase 3 step 2 as outlined by the Governor. Phase 3 Step 2 allows for Bowling Alleys, Trampoline parks, Batting cages etc. Any ball pits remain closed. The State has identified low risk States as Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Vermont, and District of Columbia.

Ms. Ball also indicated that there will be a Public Forum for Drive Thru discussion on October 15, 2020 at 7 PM via zoom. Mr. McInnis stated that he would draft a letter of support to send to Ms. Ball for Board comment.

Remote Learning Programs – Ms. Ball mentioned that we have only received two applications that were before the Board at the previous meeting. Currently, Teamworks is the only one approved by the EEC. Acton Recreation should be submitting their request for approval soon.

Nursing Service Director Updates

Ms. Ball gave the Board the update as Ms. York was off today. Ms. Ball stated that Acton currently has 211 positive cases, 4 in active isolation, 186 recovered and 21 fatalities.

Next BOH Meetings

Ms. Ball stated the next BOH meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2020.

Aquifer Special Permit – Twin School Gates/Douglas – 75 Spruce Street

The Acton-Boxboro School District has submitted an application for an Aquifer Special Permit for the proposed Twin School located at 75 Spruce Street. Ms. Ball updated the Board on the status of the schools septic system, stating that the septic tanks are ordered and scheduled to be installed in December and the SAS is scheduled to be installed in the Spring of 2021. There are proposed conditions that have been given to the District and the Engineer and they are in agreement with all conditions except the no floor drains. Board of Health Rules and Regulations Article 16, outlines that no floor drains be allowed in zones 1, 2 or 3. They are proposing floor drains in the kitchen, bathrooms, mechanical and work room. The State Plumbing Code also requires that there be floor drains. Ms. Grandstaff-Rice, Architect for the project referenced the plumbing code and also stated that they would like to install floor drains in various rooms and would like the Board to define sanitary and non- sanitary waste. Ms. Grandstaff-Rice stated that



the work room floor drains will go into a tight tank and also mentioned that the kitchen would have grates. The Board discussed this matter and stated that there can be caps placed on the bathroom drains to allow for removal during cleaning only and stated that since the plumbing code requires them, that they should speak with the Health Division for approval of any floor drains. On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to grant an Aquifer Special Permit to the proposed Gates/Douglas Twin school located at 75 Spruce Street as amended and the floor drains shall be approved by the Health Division:

1. The septic system plan shall be fully compliant with all State and local regulations and requirements.
2. This permit is an aquifer protection permit only and nothing in this permit allows or requires non-compliance with all other present and future applicable laws or regulations.
3. The sewage disposal system for the proposed building at this site shall be approved by the Health Division
4. A plan for installation and testing of groundwater monitoring wells for the sewage disposal system shall be submitted and approved by the Health Division. At a minimum, three groundwater monitoring wells shall be located downgradient and adjacent to the SAS and three groundwater monitoring wells at the property boundaries located near sensitive receptors in the direction of groundwater flow. The frequency and parameters for water quality sampling and analysis of the wells and the water quality discharge limits shall be approved by the Health Division.
5. The application or use of fertilizers on the school fields and grounds is not permitted. The IPM plan shall be as approved with conditions by the Health Department.
6. A plan documenting the installation, use, maintenance and discharge for the reclaim/grey water reuse system shall be submitted and subject to approval by the Health Division. All water reuse uses shall subject to approval by the Health Division and include discharge flow and water quality monitoring.
7. A plan for construction site activities including earth removal, impervious cover, storage and fill shall be approved by the Health Division.
8. A plan documenting the proposed site activity poses no significant risk of reducing, interfering with, or degrading the groundwater or causing any threat to the public health and safety shall be approved by the Health Division.
9. A plan documenting the proposed site activity including soil erosion and run-off containment requirements, requirement to preserve groundwater recharge, limits on the extent of impervious cover and treatment of water run-off shall be approved by the Health and Engineering Divisions.
10. All subsurface wells, including geothermal and irrigation wells, shall be designed, installed and maintained as approved with conditions by the Health Division and shall be fully compliant with all other applicable State and local regulations and requirements. Geothermal wells shall be closed loop systems with nontoxic, biodegradable heat transfer media.
11. No underground fuel storage tanks shall be permitted on the site.
12. The septic tank shall be pumped a minimum of once every year or as determined by the Health Division.
13. The site shall fully conform to the Town of Acton Hazardous Materials Control Bylaw.
14. Floor cleaning procedures for the building shall use only nontoxic and biodegradable cleaning compounds.



15. Sewage disposal system shall be a minimum 100 feet from flood plain and/or wetlands.
16. Any Floor drains proposed must either connect to a tight tank with monitoring system and maintenance plan or they must include safety/protection measures, for example, protective caps and or containment grates as approved with conditions by the Health Division. All non-sanitary waste shall be directed to the tight tank.

The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Article 9 – Geothermal Wells

The Health Division submitted some revisions to Article 9 for Board discussion. The Board asked that the Health Division separate out geothermal and irrigation wells within this document to allow for easier reading. The Board discussed these proposed amendments and asked the Health Division to resubmit for review prior to scheduling for public hearing.

Athletic Fields:

Mr. McInnis stated that he recommends that the Board consider adopting a policy to ensure a higher rate of compliance for those groups/organizations using athletic fields and to issue permits for use of the fields. Mr. McInnis stated that the obligation of following COVID protocols and procedures would then be placed on the users. The user would then be subject to random inspections and compliance checks. Mr. McInnis stated that this would allow for all to participate in a safe and enjoyable experience. The Board agreed to direct the Health Division to follow up with Community Ed and Acton Recreation and require all organizations requesting permission to use all athletic fields to obtain a permit from the Health Division in order to hold the users accountable and for compliance with COVID guidelines.

Other Update

Halloween – Ms. Ball presented the Board with CDC guidance for holding trick or treat during COVID -19. Ms. Ball stated that Halloween is fast approaching and asked the Board their opinion on whether to hold it this year. The Board stated that Halloween could be held with safety measures and asked Ms. Ball to type up guidelines that mimic CDC's and also suggested other guidelines to include and asked that they be submitted to the Town Manager for approval.

3. Minutes:

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Jacoby, the Board voted to approve the minutes dated September 14, 2020 as amended. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Jacoby, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:42 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
- Gates/Douglas Aquifer Special Permit and proposed conditions
- Draft of Article 9
- Minutes from September 14, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball

Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis

William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health