



**Acton Board of Health**

Special Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2020

7:30 P.M.

ROOM 204 TOWN HALL, 472 MAIN STREET WITH VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA  
ZOOM

**Present:**

Members Present: William McInnis -Chairman, Joanne Bissetta

Virtual Members Present: Mark Conoby, Dr. William Taylor, Michael Kreuze

Associate Members Present: Dr. Rekha Singh

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Thomas Jacoby

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

Other Present: John Mangiaratti, Town Manager, Board of Selectmen members, Joan Gardner, Dean Charter, David Martin, Peter Berry and Jon Benson

Virtual Present: Terra Friedrichs, Franny Osman and John Petersen

**1. Opening**

Chair - William McInnis opened the meeting at 7:32 P.M. Mr. McInnis stated that due to the ongoing concerns with COVID-19, Coronavirus, the Board has had to modify how we connect with our residents and that the Board meetings will be held electronically until future notice. Mr. McInnis introduced the Board of Health members and stated their backgrounds and Ms. Gardner, Chair of the Board of Selectmen introduced all members.

**2. Regular Business**

**A. COVID-19/Corona Virus**

1. Public Building Closure: The Board discussed the need to close all public buildings to minimize the risk to protect the public health. On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board voted to close public buildings in the interest of protecting health and safety of staff and our residents. Roll Call was taken. Mark Conoby – Aye, William Taylor – Aye, Michael Kreuze-Aye, Joanne Bissetta- Aye, William McInnis-Aye. Unanimous -Motion passes.

2. Daycares: The Board discussed Governor Baker's closure of schools but allowing daycares to remain open. The Board discussed the requirement of health and safety workers and their



potential need for daycare and directed the Health Division to contact daycares to confirm if they are open or closed. The Board also asked the Health Division to obtain any open daycares plan to implement social distancing between students and staff as well as parents, disinfection strategies, policies on staying home if sick, etc and asked for completion prior to the next BOH meeting on March 19, 2020.

3. After school programs/activities - The Board stated that any after school classroom type activities, similar to but not limited to tutor type classrooms, after school programs, or any business that incapable of maintaining social distancing recommendations shall close. Other activities were discussed and if they involve ten (10) people or less, any high risk individual is excluded and they adhere to social distancing they can continue to be open. The Health Division will follow-up with local businesses to ensure compliance with recommended CDC and MDPH guidelines.
4. Hair salons – The Board stated that hair salons should be sent guidelines to ensure compliance with recommended CDC and MDPH guidelines. The Health Division will follow-up with all hair salons.
5. Acton Nursing Service – Heather York, Nursing Director was present to discuss updates and preparations that the Nursing Service is following in regards to COVID-19. Ms. York stated that all staff is following home care guidelines to ensure safety and have implemented calling all clients asking about illness before staff enters home for visit. Ms. York also stated that they are prepared, along with the Medical Reserve Core, and ready for drive through testing or vaccination if needed. The Board asked Ms. York about the availability of tests. Ms. York stated companies are working on getting them approved but test availability is limited and hopes that improves soon.
6. The Board of Health questioned Town meeting and town election postponement. The BOS stated that will be decided on March 17, 2020 at their meeting.
7. BOH ban of cold bars, hot bars, buffets or self- service type foods at all grocery and convenience stores. –The Board discussed these bans and stated that all should be closed until further notice. Health Division staff will notify all establishments of this change on 3/17/2020.
8. Reusable bags – The Board also wants the Health Division to encourage residents to wash their reusable bags and/or ask for paper bags until the risk of spread has been contained as unwashed bags are capable of contamination with the virus. The Health Division will speak with proponents of plastic bag ban and draft up document to distribute to the public.
9. Other – The Board stated that messaging needs to be ramped up to all residents so that they all understand social distancing. Many have noticed kids congregating together and the Board



stated that it is important so that everyone understands about social distancing to help stop the spread.

10. Citizen Concerns:

The Board opened up the meeting to the residents in virtual attendance. Residents stated their concerns with potential hospital overload and some resident's needs. Others asked the Board to look at existing data from South Korea that may be helpful to us and all stated the importance of obtaining adequate testing supplies.

**4. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

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

- BOH guidance memo

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball  
Acton Board of Health

William McInnis- Chairman,  
Acton Board of Health