



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 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: Alissa Nichol, Lori Cooney, Peg Mikkola, Kim Kastens and Dian Oster.

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 crisis.

2. Regular Business

Director Operational Updates –

WR Grace – Informational Meeting

Ms. Ball stated that the meeting was informative and EPA/WR Grace explained the status of the clean up, ongoing remediation, potential reuse and took a lot of questions from the audience. Ms. Ball stated she is working on getting the slides for the Board.

Vaccine Eligibility

Ms. Ball stated that the State announced today that they are setting up a 211 hotline to help our 75+ years old residents to assist with signing up for the vaccine at the online Mass Vaccination sites. The State has also added a function to put in your zip code on their online sign up so residents are able to identify the closest location. There are currently 4 mass vaccination locations and the State expects to add two additional sites this week as well as pharmacies. Ms. Ball further stated that we have had over 750 Acton residents complete the vaccine interest form that the town put on the website. Ms. Ball stated that we are currently working with our oldest and most vulnerable population first and we were able to vaccinate 118 so far.



New State COVID Guidelines

The State released new guidelines today bringing capacity limits up from 25% to 40% in most businesses. The gathering order is currently limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.

COVID – Variants

Ms. Ball stated that there are currently 7 instances of the UK variants in Massachusetts.

Nursing Service Director Updates-

Ms. York stated that Acton currently has a total of 679 total cases, 23 in isolation, 655 recovered and 31 fatalities. Ms. York stated that we are happy to have gotten vaccine and hopes that we continue to do so. Ms. York mentioned that Deputy Fire Chief Arnum did a tremendous job with the clinic that we ran at the senior housing for those over the age of 75. She stated that we are still seeing trends in family units within the same household. Life care center has finished vaccinating their residents with both doses. Benchmark at Robbins Brook started their vaccinations the end of January and their second doses will be administered by the end of this month. Ms. York further mentioned that we are continuing to meet with the schools on a weekly basis and the school nurses continue to be a huge help. Ms. York stated that we are also seeing many cases associated with hockey.

The Board discussed the percentages of those vaccinated for both the employees of our congregate living centers as well as our First responders. Ms. York stated that she estimates approximately 95% of the staff at Lifecare and is unsure of the numbers at Benchmark at Robbins Brook and Ms. Ball stated that she is still looking to obtain those numbers for our First Responders. The Board had a lengthy discussion about the importance of vaccinating these staff members and asked staff to obtain these percentages for the next meeting. The Board further stated that they would like all to be vaccinated and discussed how that could be achieved. The Board also asked if we are billing insurances for the vaccination and Ms. York stated that we are.

Article 11 and 16 proposed changes – Discussion only

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to both Article 11 and 16 of Acton Rules and Regulations. These changes were discussed at a previous meeting and the Board made changes and asked staff to bring back once done. The Board reviewed those changes and made some further suggestions and asked Ms. Ball to schedule a public hearing. Ms. Ball stated that proposed changes would be sent to those that may be affected by the changes to allow for comment either prior to or at the public hearing.



Minutes

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of 1-25-2021 with corrections. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting

The next BOH meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2021.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:48 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
- Proposed changes to Article 11 and Article 16
- Minutes of 1/25/21

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball
Sheryl Ball

Acton Board of Health

Wm. McInnis

William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health