



Acton Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2020
7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS VIA ZOOM

Present:

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

Virtual Associate Members Present: Dr. Rekha Singh and Dr. Thomas Jacoby voting for absent Michael Kreuze

Virtual Staff Present: Sheryl Ball-Health Director, Matt Dow, Heather York-Nursing Director, and Eva Szkaradek

Virtual Present: Mitch Doherty, Jill Salamon, Jo-Ann Berry, Kevin Curley, Lori Cooney, Diann Oster, Fred Dushin, Terra Friedrichs, and Joe Will

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

Board of Health - Acton Board of Health Orders Modifications May 20, 2020

The Board of Health previously voted the following orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor's office has issued new guidance and the Board is amending their previous order to be consistent with the State of Massachusetts:

Public Buildings Closure Order:

The Board of Health amends its Public Building Closure Order related to COVID-19 to update, adopt and incorporate the new requirements, safety standards and restrictions of the new Commonwealth of Massachusetts Order dated 5/18/20, effective May 25, 2020.

Elective Personal Care Business Order:

The Board of Health amends its Elective Personal Care Businesses Order related to COVID-19 to update, adopt and incorporate the new requirements, safety standards and restrictions of the new Commonwealth of Massachusetts Order dated May 18th, 2020, effective May 25, 2020. This order amendment is to allow only barbers and hairdressers



to reopen pursuant to Commonwealth of Massachusetts Order dated May 18th, 2020 subject to its requirements and restrictions.

NARA Park Closure Order:

The Board of Health amends its closure Public Order for NARA park to partially reopen the park for limited activities with restrictions. This amended order, effective May 25th, 2020, only reopens the facility to allow transitory activities including walking, selected non-contact sports only among individuals from the same household and the public restrooms, subject to requirements and restrictions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Order dated May 18th, 2020. All individuals visiting the park are still subject to the requirements for face coverings, social distancing and limitations on gatherings.

Isolation and Quarantine Order and Protocols:

Ms. Ball stated that the Nursing Service has had issues with two residents not abiding by the Governor's order to self- isolate due to a positive antibody test. The State has issued guidance that these residents must self- isolate or obtain a negative nasal swab. The Nursing Service had been trying to contact these two residents by phone but they were unresponsive. Ms. York sent letters to both residents asking them to contact her and finally received calls, however, they refused to isolate and/or obtain the nasal swab test. Town Counsel drafted a letter and protocols for the Nursing Service to follow so that we can send it to residents who refuse to comply. The Board discussed the protocols at length and some were upset with the recommended enforcement actions. Some members did not agree with the State's guidance that a person with a positive antibody test sheds the virus. It was also suggested that the letter be updated to include that residents may obtain a nasal swab or a saliva test. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to authorize the sending of the letter to the two current non-compliant residents and will discuss the protocols at the next meeting as the BOH is required by law to enforce the State's guidance. On a motion made by Mr. Conoby, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board voted to authorize the chair or the health director to sign the order and send the isolation and quarantine order to the two residents that are not in compliance,

Next Meeting – The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2020.



3. Minutes:

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of May 18, 2020 with corrections. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

4. Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:43 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
- Protocol for enforcement of isolation and quarantine orders
- COVID-19 Mandatory Enforcement Order
- Minutes from May 18, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sheryl Ball
Acton Board of Health



William McInnis- Chairman,
Acton Board of Health