



Acton Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2024
7:30 PM.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Virtual Members Present: Mark Conoby – Chair of the Board of Health, Mr. McInnis, Dr. William Taylor, and Dr. Rekha Singh

Virtual Staff Present: Matthew Dow – Environmental Health Director, Penny Funaiole – Health and Family Services Director

Others Present Virtually: Alissa Nicol – Select Board Liaison, Stephen Petrie, Margret O'Brien (TRC), Mike Patterson (Next Grid), Scott Buchanan (TRC)

1. Opening

Chairman – Mark Conoby opened the meeting at 7:32 P.M. A script was read that was provided by the Town and this meeting of the Board of Health was called to order.

2. Regular Business

Future Agenda Items

Central Mass Mosquito Control Project and Acton Water District have received requests to provide updates to the Board of Health, and the Health Department is currently waiting on a response.

Future discussion with the Acton Highway Department to discuss alternatives to salting roads near wells. The Health Department received a report that sodium levels in the water supply are high.

Environmental Health Director Update

Hazardous Waste Day June 1st had 182 cars come through to drop off household hazardous waste. The next event will be on September 24th from 4-6:30 PM.

Kara Curley has been contracted through the Northwest Public Health Coalition to conduct Tobacco surveys. Acton needs to examine its tobacco regulations and look at possible updates in the future.



Following the recent drowning at Bellows Farm, where the child was revived, Matthew Dow and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health did a thorough 2-hour Comprehensive Safety Inspection of the pool. They provided conditions to be correct for several small violations. Matthew will be following up with Bellows Farm to ensure all violations are corrected.

Health and Family Services Director Update

Health Equity Community Health Needs Assessment (HE CHNA) was proposed to the Board of Health. The presentation highlighted the process of a HE CHNA. It was highlighted that a concurrent and overlapping process is happening through a project called REACH (Racial Equity Advancement and Collaborative Hub). The Acton REACH Team attends monthly conferences to develop a strategic plan to address racial equity. The process has evolved into a larger discussion on racial and health equity and how social determinants of health impact Acton community members. The board pointed out that Emerson Hospital does a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and identified other resources of previous iterations of a CHNA. There was discussion of the funding and staffing but there was no determination on how this activity could be funded. It was noted that the estimated cost will be \$25,000 to complete this assessment professionally. It was noted that the director will seek grant funding and work with the town manager to identify other resources to complete this effort.

Nursing Service Update

Since our last meeting, there have been 22 cases of COVID, 4 cases of Tuberculosis, 5 cases of Influenza, and one case of Hepatitis B.

There are no issues at Benchmark or Life Care Center at this time.

Nursing Service just completed a six-week walking program for Seniors at Nara Park. This program is set to resume at the end of July.

3. New / Special Business

Hazardous Materials Control Permit - SP Tuning, 864 Main Street, Unit 6

The applicant has been operating for 5 years and recently was identified through a DBA approval process that he did not have a permit. There were no questions for the applicant.

Mr. McInnis motioned to approve the Hazardous Materials Control Permit. Dr. Rekha Singh seconded. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor

Hazardous Materials Control Permit - Next Grid, LLC, 55 Knox Trail

TRC is returning for a review of the application. TRC came in front of the Board of Health in March. There was follow-up needed before the permit could be approved. Items that needed to be updated: 1) Training for the Fire Department twice a year, 2) A series of conditions from the Acton Water Department, 3) TRC conducted a baseline noise assessment, 4) TRC added bollards



between the road, transformer, and Battery system, 5) Emergency Response plan shared with Fire, Police, Building and Planning Departments, 6) Contractor is not identified but BOH stated they must be located within 1 hour from the site, 7) Battery unit needs alarms for intrusion protection. TRC complied with the conditions and on the noise study the BOH conceded that a baseline is fine since it is in an industrial area and shut off overnight. There was further discussion on alarm monitoring shutdown. It was also discussed that the next steps of the process take TRC through approvals with the Building and Fire Department.

Mr. McInnis motioned to approve the Hazardous Materials Control Permit and Dr. William Taylor seconded. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor

92B Willow Street – Update / Order and Enforcement

Mark Conoby recapped what led up to the court order to vacate. Director Funaiole reported on the steps taken to carry out the Order to Vacate. Director Funaiole pointed out that the Town worked with the tenant to find alternative long-term housing both previously and in the weeks leading up to the execution of the vacate order. The tenant requested rental assistance through the Acton Emergency Assistance Program which provided 8 days of stay at a hotel with a kitchenette. The Town also paid \$5780 for the removal and storage of the tenant-identified items that were inside the home. The moving company was identified by the Middlesex Constable Service as a state-approved eviction mover. Director Funaiole stated that according to Town Counsel at this time there is no further action needed on behalf of the Town of Acton. The Town was obligated to pay for one week the storage was paid for – for 30 days.

Additionally, the eviction process was determined and there is an appeal that would be heard on July 3rd. This court proceeding is between the tenant and landlord.

Ms. Nicol indicated that a fine hearing in November the Bajwa's were ordered to demolish the property within 30 to 60 days post-property securing. Director Funaiole agreed to follow up on the demolition of the property. Mark suggested this issue be discussed in the next meeting.

Mr. McInnis discussed safety violations committed by the Bajwa's during the vacate process. Director Funaiole stated that the violation was documented as a warning. Mr. McInnis stated that the Health Department has completed its enforcement actions and the next step is to address the fines that were appealed and then held pending court proceedings. It was voted on by Mr. McInnis to hold the fine hearing on July 16th and seconded by Dr. Rekha Singh.

Minutes – May 14th, 2024

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes with corrections of May 14th, 2024. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.



Adjournment

On a motion made by Dr. William Taylor, seconded by Mr. McInnis, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9 P.M. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.


Next Meeting


The next Board of Health meeting will be on Tuesday, July 16th, 2024

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

- 020 - SP Tuning LLC Hazardous Materials Permit Application
- 021 - Letter to BOH for SP Tuning LLC 06-11-2024
- 030 - 55_Knox_Trail_BOH_Revised_HazMat_Application_2024-05-28_Thu_Jun_6_2024_10-16-15
- 031 - Next Grid 55 Knox Noise Baseline Study
- 032 - 55 Knox Trail Emergency Spill Plan for BOH HazMat App
- 033 - Letter to BOH - Next Grid LLC 55 Knox Trail Standard Conditions for ESS - BOH recommendations for Hazardous Materials Control Permit

Respectfully Submitted,


Matthew Dow
Environmental Health Director


Mark Conoby, Chairman
Acton Board of Health