



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

7:00 PM

ROOM 204, ACTON TOWN HALL, 472 MAIN STREET

Present: Joan Gardner, Jon Benson, Dean Charter, Peter J. Berry, David Martin, Town Manager
John S. Mangiaratti

Absent: None

Ms. Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. All Board members were in physical attendance and the audience participated virtually utilizing Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

I. **Regular Business**

1. Citizen Concerns

Terra Friedrichs of West Acton commented that she was concerned that the NARA Park posting didn't explain the social distancing.

2. Chair Update/Town Manager Update

Mr. Mangiaratti reported that Deputy Fire Chief Robert Vandershhoof is retiring as of today, and we hope to send him off properly at a later date. He reported that the town is continuing to work with local and state/federal officials to coordinate responses to the COVID19 crisis. A letter authored by the Board of Health will be sent out to all households in Acton shortly that will give the information regarding COVID-19 and what to do if they experience symptoms, and also the information about town meeting. The town has received some PPE for our first responders and is hoping to get more shortly. The DPW is working to reinforce best practices and dedicated hours for seniors at the transfer station. The transfer station is currently open at 8 am T-Sat, and soon we will start at 7 am for seniors. Other changes are currently being considered. We are working on implementing the Families First Response Act along with labor counsel. The Act provides for up to 80 hours paid leave related to COVID-19 for certain eligible employees and also an longer term leave program for for up to 10 weeks. There are exemptions for first responders and health care providers for certain employees. Some committees have requested to meet since the declaration of local emergency, specifically the HC, COD, and ACHD. Staff is working with residents and small businesses to navigate the local and state emergency orders. Several restaurants remain open for take-out meals. Ms. Gardner questioned about drive through take out for pharmacies and restaurants. Mr. Mangiaratti mentioned that the Recreation Division is currently evaluating whether the Summer Concert Series and the 4th of July celebration should be postponed or cancelled. Medical Reserve Corp is recruiting volunteers regarding shelters as emergencies rise up. A COVID19 hotline is being established with current



information and direct access to key COVID related services. It will soon be staffed with remote employees..

II. New/Special Business

3. Continue Discussion on COVI-19 and Updates

Mr. Charter questioned about employees at home that may be utilized for alternative job duties rather than sitting at home and not doing anything. Mr. Berry continued with questions regarding the Families First Act and regards to public safety employees if they are exempt. Mr. Mangiaratti understanding is those employees would be exempt. Mr. Berry understands the act involves 80 hours paid leave. Mr. Mangiaratti commented that he will continue to have discussion regarding specific concerns from employees who may have issues with child care regarding the evolving Families First Act (and employees of the Town), and is looking for the Board's input and looking to finalize the Act tomorrow. Mr. Berry question regarding private industry worker are essentially getting a tax credit, but the Town doesn't pay taxes, so not necessarily applies to town employees. Mr. Mangiaratti stated that the town does not pay taxes, so we are currently reviewing other options on how this would apply. Mr. Martin made comments about the restaurants doing a great job. BOH will be meeting regarding their draft of most recent order to close conservation land and the town parks. Public comments have been against that decision. Mr. Martin questioned about the child care facilities for first responders and health care workers. Marianne Fleckner joined in via teleconference explaining the new Family First Corona Virus Care Act and explained that there are exemptions for health care providers and first responders and we are still evaluating the possible the impacts. Ms. Fleckner is confident with the decisions moving forward with the act for the employees.

Mr. Berry questioned about the decision of the Board of Health in regards to access to NARA Park and the town trails. Mr. Berry commented on the BOH moving picnic tables to discourage congregating. Mr. Berry commented on the BOH meeting virtually and working well and agrees with Mr. Martin to meet remotely for future meetings. There was consensus of the Board to stop meeting in-person and to instead conduct meetings virtually during this state of emergency

Mr. Mangiaratti explained to the Board that several committees requested to meet remotely.

Mr. Benson moves to authorize the HC, COD, and ACHC to meet remotely, Mr. Martin seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries.

Mr. Benson updated the Board about the COVID-19 Impact Fund enacted by the A-B United Way to assist families during this crisis and targeted to raise \$175 K.. Mr. Benson urges people to donate if possible.

4. Discuss Federal and State Directives Related to COVID-19

Mr. Mangiaratti confirmed that a majority of the conversation previously was covered regarding the State and Federal level response.



III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Benson moves to approve consent item 5 regarding meeting minutes from March 17 and 24, Mr. Martin seconds. The Board voted 5-0. Motion carries.

Mr. Benson suggested the meeting currently scheduled for Friday, April 3 be conducted virtually, Mr. Martin requested to add an item to the open session regarding any updates on COVID-19.

A meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. There was continued discussion regarding the availability of early and absentee voting. Mr. Martin explained that either voting can be done without physically attending, and forms are available online and also by requesting through the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Martin moves to adjourn, Mr. Berry seconds. The Board voted unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Agenda, March 31, 2020
- Meeting Minutes, March 17 and 24, 2020
- Town Manager Operational Update Memo