



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2024

12:30 PM

Emergency Board of Health Meeting for EEE via Zoom

Present:

Virtual Members Present: Mark Conoby – Chairman, William McInnis and Dr. William Taylor

Virtual Staff Present: Penelope Funaiole – Health and Family Services Director

Others Present Virtually: Timothy McGlinchy and Frank Cornine (CMMC)

1. Opening

Chairman – Mark Conoby opened the meeting at 12:31 PM. A script was read that was provided by the Town and this meeting of the Board of Health was called to order.

Emergency Business

School Waiver to Spray Fields and Grounds

Discussion and Actions

The Town of Acton Board of Health held an emergency meeting to consider an emergency waiver request from the Acton-Boxborough school district for spraying fields and grounds due to a positive case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) confirmed in the town. The department of public health elevated the risk assessment from moderate to high following notification of the case. The emergency spraying included both adulticide and barrier treatments, specifically targeting the school perimeters.

A motion was made by Mr. McInnis to "authorize the health director to sign the waiver documents for all school properties for both the barrier and adulticide applications." The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor, and it passed unanimously.

Coordination with Central Mass Mosquito Control

Representatives from Central Mass Mosquito Control, who were present at the meeting, confirmed their readiness to perform the necessary spraying on Sunday, weather permitting, with an emphasis on adjacency concerns to no-spray properties. Guidance from the Department of Public Health was sought concerning waiving of no-spray zones during public health emergencies.



Public Health Information and Orders to Control EEE and WNV

Public Communication and Recommendations

The meeting prioritized public health information dissemination, advising residents on protective measures against mosquito bites following the increased threat level. The board strongly recommended rescheduling outdoor activities to avoid peak mosquito activity hours, specifically from dusk to dawn, with educational and precautionary postings set for trails and public areas.

A consensus was reached that "the board strongly recommends the restriction of outdoor activities during peak mosquito activity hours, from dusk to dawn, following DPH guidance."

A further motion was made by Mr. McInnis to "authorize the health director to request a waiver from the DPH to preempt no-spray zones to maximize the effectiveness of mosquito control." The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor, and it was approved unanimously.

Actions on Spraying

It was agreed upon that authorized personnel could request additional town-wide spraying as needed based on current mosquito surveillance data, without necessitating further board meetings.

The meeting concluded with action items primarily concentrating on proactive public education campaigns, ensuring consistent updating via social media and town websites, consulting closely with DPH, and maintaining preparedness for further structural responses if required by the evolving public health situation.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 1:18 P.M. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be on Tuesday October 1, 2024

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting;

- Town of Acton script for boards and committees opening meeting
- Board of Health agenda

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew R. Dow

Matthew Dow
Environmental Health Director

Mark Conoby, Chairman
Acton Board of Health