



Acton Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2025

7:30 PM.

Hybrid Meeting COA Building 30 Sudbury Rd and via Zoom

Present:

Members Present: Mark Conoby – Chairman

Virtual Members Present: Dr. William Taylor and William McInnis

Staff Present: Penelope Funairole – Health and Family Services Director and
Matthew Dow – Environmental Health Director

Others Present: Alissa Nicol – Select Board Liaison

Others Present Virtually: Kim Kasten and Call in User 1

1. Opening

Chairman – Mark Conoby opened the meeting at 7:37 PM. 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

Environmental Health Director Update

Mr. Dow provided an update on several ongoing projects:

- Dover Heights: Matt spoke with the engineer who is drafting a plan, expected to be delivered by the end of the week.
- Gould's Plaza: The engineer is working on a plan, expected to be delivered within two weeks. Board member Mr. McInnis noted this timeline had been previously promised a month ago.

Matt presented inspection statistics for 2024:

- 118 hazmat inspections
- 162 food inspections
- 175 septic inspections
- 31 pool inspections
- 8 camp inspections
- 2 body art inspections
- 2 body works inspections
- 18 weekly beach inspections



- 7 housing inspections
- 14 nuisance complaint inspections
- 60 weights and measures inspections

Mr. Dow noted these numbers were generally consistent with previous years, with some slight increases in certain categories.

Nursing Service Update

Mr. Dow reported that since the last meeting on January 14, 2025 the Acton Nursing Service has treated 2 cases of Norovirus, 39 cases of COVID and 220 cases of Influenza.

Matt clarified that these cases were reported from doctors to the Department of Public Health and do not necessarily reflect patients directly treated by the Nursing Service.

Health and Family Services Director Update

Mrs. Funaiole provided several updates:

- The Select board has tentatively approved moving forward with hiring based on the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) with Littleton. They are working with Littleton on finalizing details and hope to post the position soon. Littleton is expected to approve the agreement on March 10th.
- A per diem position for the Nursing Department has been posted and has received some candidate applications.
- They are working on combining the equity audit and health equity community needs assessment into one RFP to avoid duplication of efforts. This is being done in collaboration with the DEI director.
- They received a \$1,000 grant from Emerson for Asian elder outreach. They are considering either hosting an event or conducting smaller pocket meetings throughout town to gather information on needs and promote current services.
- The state has mandated a review of public health services and associated costs. This is an extensive project that will help identify areas of strength and areas for improvement.
- The Northwest Public Health Coalition is hiring for a community wellness position focused on substance use navigation, hoarding case management, and health education. Interviews are starting soon.

Penny also addressed questions about the Nursing Service's supervision structure, noting that while she would have administrative oversight, tactical supervision of Littleton-related tasks would be handled by Littleton. The Board discussed the need to revisit the professional advisory committee structure to ensure proper medical oversight and quality standards are maintained.

Any Board Members Future Agenda Items

The Board agreed to add the following items to future agendas:



1. An update on Dover Heights
2. Discussion of the nursing service's supervision structure and medical oversight.

3. New/Special Business

Linsey Hurley: Discussion about fluoride in our drinking water

Mr. Dow informed the Board that Lindsey Hurley had requested to postpone her presentation to the next meeting.

Boardwalk School: Septic system effluent monitoring

The Board discussed recent testing results from the Boardwalk School's septic system, which showed exceedances of permitted nitrogen levels in several monitoring wells. Key points of discussion included:

- Well MW8, located at the property boundary, showed a total nitrogen level of 58 mg/L, more than double the permitted limit of 25 mg/L.
- Other wells near the septic system (MW5, MW6, MW7) also showed elevated levels.
- The Board expressed concern about the consistency and spread of high nitrogen levels.

The Board decided on the following course of action:

1. Request monthly testing of wells MW5, MW6, MW7, and MW8 for the remainder of the school year (March through June).
2. Ask for water usage data to be reported alongside the testing results.
3. Request that the school district investigate potential causes for high water usage and elevated nitrogen levels.
4. Expect a plan from the school district by the end of the school year (June) to address any ongoing compliance issues.

The Board emphasized the need for timely action, noting that any necessary system modifications should ideally be completed during the summer break.

Mr. Dow was directed to communicate these expectations to the school district and invite representatives to attend the next board meeting to discuss the issue further.

The Board also discussed the possibility of comparing current water usage to historical data from the previous Gates and Douglas schools to better understand if water conservation goals are being met.

Minutes – January 14, 2025

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 14, 2025. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Adjournment



On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:55 PM. The Chair took roll call and all were in favor.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be on Tuesday March 11, 2025.

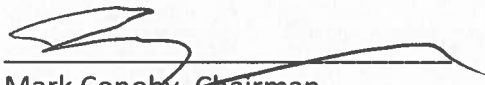
Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting;

- Town of Acton script for boards and committees opening meeting
- Board of Health agenda revised
- Ransom – Pinchin report 2025
- BOH Boardwalk Water Usage 2025
- BOH MW Test Results 2025
- Board of Health meeting minutes from 1/14/2025

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Dow
Environmental Health Director



Mark Conoby, Chairman
Acton Board of Health