

Acton Board of Health

March 10, 2008

Members Present: William Taylor, Chairman, Joanne Bissetta, Vice Chairman, William McInnis, Member, Phil Alvarez, Associate voting for Pam Harting-Barrat and Joseph Ianelli, Associate.

Staff Present: Doug Halley, Health Director and Sheryl Ball.

Others Present: Peggy Mikkola, representative for league of women voters.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Board of Health minutes dated February 25, 2008 as written.

Discussion – Health Department Goals and Objectives

Mr. Halley stated that through the course of time the Health Department has laid out goals and objectives for the Board to review. Mr. Halley stated that the Health Department looked at national standards and used those standards in designing these goals which incorporated public and environmental health. Mr. Halley also stated that he incorporated staff comments. Mr. Halley asked the Board to review the goals and objectives and also to assign Board liaisons. The Board expressed concern that some of the goals may be unachievable and also questioned whether the Health Department is aiming too high and suggested starting with baseline goals. Mr. Halley stated that he feels we should aim high with these goals and if we are unable to achieve them he feels that addressing the deficiencies will help the Health Department. One of the goals and objectives that was discussed was conducting a community health assessment survey that will be funded through a gift from the Friends of the Acton Nursing Service (FANS). The Board expressed their desire to identify leaders in different ethnic groups so that all different groups participate in the survey. The Board stated that a direct mailing including return

envelopes and a follow up phone call would be beneficial in assuring a response to the survey. Another goal that was discussed is that the Health Department is currently working with the school system to help introduce more healthy choices for children as part of the school lunch program. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to endorse the public health goals and objectives submitted to the Board for the Health Department to work on in the next three years. Mr. Halley stated that we will update the Board as to the progress in one year.

Regulations – Deletion of Massage Regulations – Article 13

Mr. Halley explained that the Legislature has recently passed a law which has now taken the licensing of Massage Establishments and Practitioners out of local cities and towns control and placed them in the hands of the State of Massachusetts. Mr. Halley stated that we need to delete our existing massage regulations – Article 13 as they are now contrary to state law. Mr. Halley also stated that there are some exclusions that the Board will need to address like therapeutic services and most of the Asian massages. Mr. Halley indicated that he would seek Town Counsel's opinion regarding the licensing of these exclusions. Mr. Halley stated that a public hearing needs to be scheduled to address these changes. Also, the Board further instructed Mr. Halley to look into the licensing of therapeutic practices in Acton.

Other –

Control Burn – Mr. Halley stated that a resident has verbally approached the fire department to allow a controlled burn of a home in Acton. Mr. Halley stated that there is a lengthy process involved and that the proposal has not been approved at this point.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Alvarez, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball, Health Secretary
Acton Board of Health

William Taylor, Chairman
Acton Board of Health