

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.
Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA
Second Floor Meeting Room

Ronald Etskovitz, Vice Chairman
Koduvayur Narayana, Clerk
Mark Oram, Agent/Director

Jon A. Fetherston, Member
Judith Margulies, Member

Members Present:

Ronald Etskovitz, Koduvayur Narayana and Jon Fetherston

Members Absent:

Judith Margulies

Others Present:

Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Tom Curran, Food Inspector
Mark Dassoni, Resident

Call to Order

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and noted the meeting was being recorded by WACA-TV.

Moment of silence for Mary Mortensen

Mr. Etskovitz asked that everyone take a moment of silence to reflect on Mary Mortensen, our longtime Board of Health Member. Mr. Fetherston noted that Mary was a legend in the Town and was a mentor to him on the Board. Mary went out of her way to accommodate everyone and she will long be remembered. Mr. Etskovitz commented on learning through the newspaper articles how much of her life Mary had given to the Town throughout the years.

Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni said he has known Mary Mortensen since she was the school nurse, and she was his friend. Mr. Dassoni said that Mary always encouraged him to speak, and she was always fair with everyone she talked to, and he will miss her.

Discuss some type of formal recognition of Mary Mortensen's lifelong commitment to Ashland public service

Mr. Etskovitz asked Mr. Fetherston to take the lead and see what he thinks would be the appropriate type of formal recognition the Board can do to honor Mary. Mr. Fetherston would like to do an annual "Mary Mortensen Public Health Award", and the Board can vet viable candidates each year. Mr. Narayana suggested possibly naming the internship after Mary. Mr. Fetherston will come back next week with a concrete idea.

Review procedure to fill BOH vacancy

Mr. Etskovitz distributed MGL Chapter 41, Section 10, which is the procedure for filling a vacancy on the Board of Health. Mr. Narayana made a motion that Mr. Etskovitz send a letter to the Selectmen on behalf of the Board of Health notifying them of the vacancy. Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Discuss Financial Committee recommendations for funding for part-time food inspector

Mr. Etskovitz greeted Tom Curran, the Town's Food Inspector, and thanked him for coming to the meeting. Mr. Narayana discussed information he received from MDPH regarding the number of required food inspections and reviewed FDA guidelines. Mr. Narayana stated that additional part-time hours for food inspections would benefit the Town in many ways.

Mr. Fetherston explained that FinCom has tasked the Board with coming back to a future FinCom Meeting with justification for the Board's request for additional personnel; Mr. Fetherston feels is necessary due to the growth of the Town and the many issues that fall under the Board of Health's purview. Mr. Curran noted the many temporary events that add to the work load. Mr. Fetherston would rather be proactive and exceed the standard, rather than meet the standard. The Board discussed utilizing the revolving fund to fund the position.

Mr. Curran explained that typically more than one inspection is needed and follow up is usually required. Mr. Etskovitz asked what the inspections entail, including the time involved; Mr. Curran responded that it depends on what he encounters, but inspections take at least an hour per establishment, and inspections include other areas in and around the building, not just the kitchen. Mr. Curran noted that speaking to the Certified Food Manager is an important part of the inspection and that person must show their knowledge of food safety protocols.

Mr. Fetherston said he would contact the FinCom Chairman to determine a date for the Board to attend a FinCom meeting. Mr. Etskovitz commented that an Assistant Health Agent would take away the need for finding on-call coverage. Mr. Fetherston asked Mr. Curran what he feels the needs are; Mr. Curran said it would be good to have more outreach to the community, Mr. Curran said additional hours could help in this area.

Mr. Narayana reviewed the statistics regarding foodborne illness. The Board discussed the opioid epidemic, and whether there are currently enough resources. The Board agreed to make a two-prong presentation to FinCom; Mr. Fetherston will create a presentation for an Assistant Health Agent, while Mr. Etskovitz and Mr. Narayana work on a presentation for the Food Inspector position. The Board agreed to meet on February 6th to review their draft presentations.

Review Draft Minutes for 12/12/17 BOH meeting

Mr. Fetherston made a motion to approve the December 12th minutes. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. Mr. Narayana did not attend the meeting and said he would view the meeting online so that he could vote. Mr. Fetherston made a motion to table this subject. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Discuss topics for future meetings

The Board will discuss possible recreational marijuana regulations, landfill updates, Connolly Bus lot issues, Health Agent update, Mary Mortensen presentation and Assistant Health Agent/Food Inspector position.

Mr. Dasoni suggested that future agendas have a space for each Member to discuss matters they want to bring up under their agenda item, allowing Members to speak about subjects not specified under the regular agenda.

Mr. Etskovitz thanked Tom Curran for attending the meeting and his insightful input.

Adjournment

Mr. Fetherston made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 1/24/2018 MEETING

(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. WinWam report of completed Inspections.
2. Draft minutes – 12/12/2017 Meeting