

Board of Health Working Group / Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 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 of the Subcommittee Present:

Ronald Etskovitz, Koduvayur Narayana

Others Present:

None

Call to Order

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Mr. Narayana presented the prepared spread sheet of the data from MA DPH 2014 summary report and the spread sheet of data collected from the neighboring municipalities. After reviewing the data from the spread sheet data and the annual summary report of the Ashland food inspection for 2016 the following draft report was prepared by Ronald Etskovitz for presentation to the Board:

Presentation for additional Staffing needs for Food Inspection

The MA DPH FY 14 report about food protection program to the State Legislators states: "Food borne illness is a preventable health problem as long as food safety standards are met and regularly monitored. Costs associated with food borne illnesses in the U.S. are estimated to be more than \$77 billion annually according to a new study published in the Journal of Food Protection. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are 48 million cases of food borne illness annually – or roughly 1 in 6 Americans who get sick from food borne illness – with 3,000 deaths and 128,000 hospitalizations."

It is also well know that the food borne illnesses are less reported and in order for a better protection for the community at large FDA and MA DPH recommends regular monitoring. This it is achieved by enhancing the food inspection program.

1. *FDA and MA DPH recommend 2 or more routine inspections per permit per year*
2. *FDA and MA DPH recommend that municipalities employ 1 Full time food inspector for every 150 permits*
3. *State wide data for 2012 and 2013 show that the state average for number of routine inspections per establishment per year is 1.9 which is just shy of the FDA bear minimum*
4. *State wide data for 2012 and 2013 show an average of 264 – 282 permits/FTE. This is about 1.8 times the FDA recommended number of 150 permits/FTE*
5. *Ashland was at 1300/FTE in 2012, 1500/FTE in 2013, 2016 at 588/FTE six times the recommended number!*
6. *Our current # of inspections/permit per year is 1, we need to do better.*
7. *Consequence of inadequate staffing*
8. *Lower number of inspections per permit per year*
9. *Quality of inspection may go down when the duration of inspection is limited to achieve the goal of two inspection per permit per year*

10. *Inspection involves over 60 items and cutting short on any of these items is essentially lowers the quality of inspection*
11. *Goal should be 150 permits/FTE with at least 2 routine inspections/yr/permit if not more inspections per permit per year*
12. *Our food inspection program can be enhanced with at least another 0.25 FTE for a total of 0.5 FTE.*
13. *We recommend to increase by approximately 15K for the food inspection program*

Mr. Etskovitz volunteered to create the minutes for this meeting. We agreed to hold another meeting in the future to approve the minutes for work group meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH WORKING GROUP SUBCOMMITTEE

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 2/2/2018 MEETING

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

1. Agenda for the meeting 2 February 2018
2. Excel spread sheet created by Mr. Narayana from the MA DPH 2014 report to the legislators
3. Excel spread of data collected from neighboring municipalities
4. 2016 Summary report of food inspection town of Ashland
5. Presentation for PT food inspector - document to be presented to BOH