

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA
Board of Selectmen’s Meeting Room

Jon Fetherston, Chairman
Diane Mortensen, Vice Chairperson
Mark Oram, Agent/Director

Chris Daniele, Clerk
Ronald Etskovitz, Member
Koduvayur Narayana, Member

Members Present:

Jon Fetherston, Chris Daniele, Ronald Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

Members Absent:

Diane Mortensen

Others Present:

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Nancy Cleary, Public Health Nurse
Mark Dassoni, Resident

Call to Order

Mr. Fetherston called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and noted that the meeting was being broadcast live on WACA-TV.

Citizen’s Participation

Mark Dassoni, resident, discussed Mill Pond Rest Home, and asked if there will be an update tonight. Mr. Fetherston noted the Board will be discussing it, and there is work still to be done.

The Lantern Condominium Association, request for waiver on lifeguard requirements

Greg Howell, for the Green Company, noted that The Lanterns had a successful season last year and intend on using the same Certified Pool Operators this year. Mr. Howell requested the Board grant a two year extension of the waiver for a lifeguard. Mr. Oram noted there have been no issues and regular inspections will be conducted; he recommended the Board approve the request. Mr. Narayana inquired as to the status of the well testing. Mr. Howell noted that due to ongoing construction, they decided to wait until the spring to do the testing. Mr. Fetherston asked that an Insurance Binder be provided to the Board of Health office, Mr. Howell noted that he would forward a copy.

Mr. Daniele made a motion that the Board grant the Extension as requested, for two years. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Board to sign the Regulation of the Ashland Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco and Nicotine Products and Delivery Systems, Effective: January 1, 2020

Mr. Fetherston believes it is a matter of time before the FDA will enact Federal Tobacco Regulations. The Board agreed that they have sent a clear message to the community and business owners, that the Regulation that was passed is fair to all; the Board thanked Mr. Daniele for all his efforts. The Board Members signed the Regulation.

Continue discussion on FY20 Budget including proposed Public Health Nurse Position

Mr. Fetherston noted that a decision was made by Management that they are not going to entertain a Public Health Nurse position at this time. The Board agreed an excessive amount of time was spent on this and agreed that going forward the process should be started earlier. Mr. Oram noted that Goals and Objectives were sent in an email on 1/30/19 which included the addition of a full-time Assistant Health Agent, and a full-time Public Health Nurse with a minimum of an additional five hours per week. Mr. Oram noted that the budget for the Public Health Nurse will run out soon and hopes we can utilize funds from the Contracted Services budget. Mr. Fetherston noted he is disappointed to not have had an opportunity to have the conversation; Mr. Daniele noted he hopes the Board receives an answer as to why they did not.

Ms. Cleary discussed an immunization program, which she believes is a major need. Ms. Cleary noted that she has spoken to Audrey LaCroix, AHS Nurse, who agrees about the need for a Public Health Nurse due to the immigrant population who she said come in without vaccines. Ms. Cleary noted they currently go to the Shrewsbury Free Clinic or the Edward M. Kennedy Health Center in Framingham, where there is a waiting process and they are enrolled in Mass Health. Ms. Cleary stated that the Framingham Board of Health will no longer vaccinate any Ashland students. Ms. Cleary noted that there is a CVS walk-in clinic in Framingham and in Natick which are at a cost. Other areas of concern Ms. Cleary noted are with the narcans and opioid situation. Mr. Oram discussed the regional nurse that was contracted with the Town in 2014 through the Metrowest Health Foundation; Mr. Daniele noted that if there is any data available from that time, it could be helpful. Mr. Daniele suggested that residents may send their thoughts to the Board regarding the need for a full-time public health nurse.

The Board took a five minute break.

The meeting recommenced at 7:56 PM.

Update on Mill Pond Rest Home

Mr. Oram noted that on January 30th, Tom Curran conducted a reinspection of Mill Pond Rest Home and found they were in compliance regarding the current issues. Mr. Curran noted that Matthew Sweeney, Director of the Rest Home, was present during the inspection and had noted to Mr. Curran that he was unaware of many of the issues. There are now two working stoves and they seem to be making investments. They have not yet paid their fines for the violations and are also responsible for paying additional fines for the extra inspections that were required. The Board agreed they must stay on top of them, and noted we still have not received a response from the State in regards to the letter that was sent. Mr. Oram noted having someone on staff at all times and a dietician to oversee the menus are two areas of concern. Mr. Fetherston noted that until we get their agreement to do a full investigation, we are not at a point of closure. The Board discussed their Emergency Management Plan. Mr. Etskovitz inquired as to whether there are any State Regulations in place when it comes to dietetic issues; Mr. Oram noted that as a "Rest Home", they do not meet the same requirements as a medical facility. Mr. Fetherston made a motion that a follow up letter be sent to the State with a request for a copy of the Regulations. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Health Agent's Report

Update on Narcan use in schools and age restrictions

Mr. Oram noted that schools do keep narcan at each school nurses offices; and noted that according to Kelly Joseph, there is no age restriction on narcan. Mr. Fetherston discussed the largest seize ever of fentanyl at the border and discussed the danger for First Responders if they have contact with fentanyl. Mr. Oram noted that Framingham is running out of Narcan and that we may need to give them some kits.

Mr. Fetherston made a motion that Mark Oram give Framingham 20 doses of narcan. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Mr. Fetherston discussed reaching out to the Ashland Business Association to offer training, and also to BC/BS. This will be on the next agenda. Natick is also running out of narcan; Mr. Oram will also give them 20 kits. The Board discussed the need to keep a steady supply of narcan kits when the narcan expires in November.

Preliminary Plans for Village at Clocktown and Village of Americas, Phase VIII

Mr. Oram noted there is a 3.8 acre lot on the Clocktown plan which is the future home of the Public Safety Building; at tech review the committee agreed to not comment at this time. It is on public water and sewer. The Village of Americas, Phase VIII, is the final phase of the quadrants that were designed 15 years ago. Proposals include mixed use or residential housing. At tech review it was decided not to comment at this time.

Cancer Incidence Rates information received from the Department of Public Health

Mr. Oram noted these Reports are updated in four year segments. When a Standard Incidence Rate (SIR) number is over 100, it is higher than the expected State numbers. Mr. Oram noted he referred a concerned resident to the DPH regarding the two latest cases of cancer. Mr. Daniele noted the importance of educating the public regarding prevention and early detection of skin cancer. Mr. Fetherston noted it would be interesting to do a comparison of the current data, with data from ten years ago.

Review of Minutes, January 15, January 22, January 29, 2019

January 15, 2019

Mr. Narayana made a motion to accept the minutes of January 15, 2019 as presented. Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

January 22, 2019

Mr. Oram noted that after reviewing the minutes with Ms. Cleary, they would like a correction to the wording regarding the budget discussion/vaccination clinic discussion; Board Members agreed this should be corrected to "was not a goal of the meeting". Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Review of the January 29, 2019 minutes was tabled.

Mr. Oram announced that there is a need for volunteers for the Green Up Committee. There are currently only two Members on the Committee after one Member is no longer able to commit; they meet twice a month. The event is held on the first Saturday in May, this will be the 18th year. Please contact the Board of Health office for more information.

Discuss Future Agenda Topics and Meeting Dates

Next meeting date: 2/19/2019.

Agenda Topics: Ashland Business Association/Narcan training, Mary Mortensen Public Health Award, Addendum to the Food Permit Application, Eversource update, DAET Meeting on alcohol policy, Mill Pond update, Marijuana/Tobacco Task Force / See what Schools are doing re: tobacco addiction.

Adjournment

Mr. Narayana made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 2/5/2019 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Lifeguard Waiver Request from The Lanterns
2. Goals and Objectives Forms, Comparable Communities, Email from M. Oram
3. Plans - Village at Clocktown, VOA Phase VIII
4. Final- Town of Ashland Tobacco, Nicotine Sales Regulations
5. Draft Meeting Minutes – 1/15/2019, 1/22/2019, 1/29/2019