

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.
Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA
Board of Selectmen 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
Mark Dassoni, Resident
Steven Morgan, Resident
Elaine Kelley, Resident
Rick Araya, Resident
Alison Bosma, Metrowest Daily News

Call to Order

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed Mark Oram back after his absence. Mr. Etskovitz announced there is an opening for a position on the Board of Health and if anyone is interested they should fill out a Talent Bank Form and submit it to the Town Manager's Office.

Citizen Participation

Mark Dassoni welcomed Mark Oram back and wished the Board well.

Steven Morgan said the documents were not attached to the agenda and stated that agenda item #4 was not specific enough. Mr. Morgan said he is glad to see the Connolly Bus and Landfill issues on the agenda and hopes the Board will take action.

Reorganization of the Board

Mr. Etskovitz noted that a letter was sent to the Board of Selectmen notifying them of the vacancy on the Board of Health, the Selectmen are meeting tomorrow night and this subject is on their agenda.

Mr. Fetherston expressed his opinion that there is a Member who has been a non-participating member of the Board. Board Members agreed that the Board works most cohesively when it operates as a full Board.

Mr. Fetherston made a motion to table Board Reorganization until there is a five Member Board in place. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Mary Mortensen's positions on other committees

Mr. Fetherston discussed Mary Mortensen's dedication and involvement in many areas of the Town. Two of the committees which she was a member of were Stormwater Advisory Committee and the Dementia Friendly Community. Mr. Narayana volunteered to be the liaison for the Dementia Friendly Community Committee. Mr. Oram will find out whether the Stormwater Advisory Committee is looking for another Board of Health Member for their Committee.

Review presentation to FinCom regarding Assistant Health Agent (J. Fetherston)

Mr. Fetherston discussed the current number of employees in the Board of Health Office and stated that according to National standards is understaffed by 3.2 employees; it is the Board's desire that the Town hire a full-time Assistant Health Agent. Mr. Fetherston explained that the Board would like to see additional food inspections, and commented on the many one-day events in Town that require the Food Inspector's time. Mr. Fetherston spoke of the many public health issues that currently fall under the Board's purview, and there will soon be the issue of adult-use marijuana regulations. Mr. Fetherston would like to see the Board be a more proactive Board in the Community with more involvement with seniors and in the schools, more engagement with food establishments and training with tobacco retailers. Mr. Oram noted that we get the work done but we could be doing more. Mr. Oram noted that the cost of hiring a licensed professional for this position would be \$90,000-\$95,000 including benefits.

Mr. Etskovitz thanked Mr. Fetherston for a great presentation. Mr. Fetherston noted it is important to make smart decisions now for the future in the best interest of the Town.

Review presentation to FinCom regarding Part-time Food Inspector (R. Etskovitz/K. Narayana)

Mr. Narayana thanked Mr. Etskovitz for sharing his time during their work sessions. Mr. Narayana discussed FDA guidelines regarding inspections, adding that more restaurant inspections would reduce the risk of food-borne illness, which accounts for 128,000 hospitalizations annually. Mr. Narayana explained that sometimes restaurants require three or four additional inspections, and good, quality restaurants will increase Town economic activity. Mr. Narayana said that the State average is 1.9 routine inspections per year, in 2016 our average was 1, Mr. Narayana said he would like to see us do better. Mr. Narayana stated that in his opinion, the food program could be improved with another .25 FTE (full time employee), at a cost of approximately \$15,000.

Mr. Fetherston made a motion that Ron reach out to the Chair of the Finance Committee to confirm a date for the Board to come back. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Mr. Oram thanked the Board for their efforts, and said it is difficult to work within the limit when you know you can be doing more.

Mr. Narayana made a motion to take a two minutes recess. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0. The Board recessed at 8:24 PM.

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting back to order at 8:28 PM.

Mr. Morgan asked that the Board move the agenda around to accommodate residents who are waiting to speak on Agenda Item 10.

Mr. Dassoni spoke about the agenda and hopes that it goes well with no bumps in the road.

Update regarding Mary Mortensen recognition plans (J. Fetherston)

Mr. Fetherston explained that this concept award will be a yearly plaque ceremony presentation honoring an Ashland citizen or organization for efforts concerning public health in honor of our longtime Member Mary "Penny" Mortensen. Mr. Fetherston suggested this year's award given to former Board of Health Member and Cadillac Paint Committee Member, Mr. Ed Hart, who has been essential throughout the years of mitigation work on Cadillac Paint. Mr. Fetherston will get some ideas for the plaque and bring them back to the Board; he would like to have this ceremony in March. Mr. Fetherston made a motion to approve this concept. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Mr. Narayana made a motion to take Agenda Item #10 out of order. Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Connolly Bus Lot: Review potential issues, discuss possible future meetings

Mr. Fetherston explained that during a prior meeting there was a discussion about a potential meeting with the residents and Connolly Bus owners. Mr. Fetherston said he understands that it must be noisy for the neighbors and would like to know if the criteria of the Special Permit been met.

Elaine Kelley expressed concern that snow from the bus lot is being plowed into the wetlands area, and is also concerned about the stormwater management proposal, the spotlights that have been recently installed, the number of buses, the placement of the portable bathroom, and garbage around the dumpster. Ms. Kelley thanked Mr. Fetherston for taking care of the gas smell previously, and stated that there is now a gas smell in another area. Mr. Fetherston sent an email to Eversource and asked Mr. Oram to send an email to Fire.

Enrique Arraya expressed concern of a possible health hazard and would like to see a study done of the water going into the wetlands. Mr. Fetherston asked Mr. Arraya to reach out to the Conservation Agent and ask if they can do a study and be on a future agenda.

Mr. Morgan expressed his opinion that there should be assessments, and stated that the issues regarding trash, temporary toilets and noise are under the Board of Health's purview.

Mr. Dassoni said he has gone around and checked on issues, including the lights at the bus lot, and those lights are not on the original site plan.

Mark Oram stated that the bus emissions are checked each year through state and federal agencies.

Mr. Morgan stated that he has attended Conservation Commission meetings and has requested documents from the Agent that he has not received. Mr. Oram called a point of order due to talking about someone's character.

Mr. Oram agreed to go to by the Lot and check the trash around the dumpster, the portable bathroom and the lighting and will update the Board.

The Board agreed to get everyone together and send a letter to the Chairs of the Committees.

Marijuana Regulations: Discuss Issues and Review MAHB "Summary of Potential Public Health Issues"

Mr. Fetherston asked Mr. Oram to invite Cheryl Sbarra to the next Board of Health meeting when the Board will be discussing Marijuana Regulations at the February 20th meeting. Mr. Oram said he will send her an email.

Consideration of Minutes: December 12, 2017 and January 9, January 29, 2018

Mr. Fetherston made a motion to accept the December 12, 2017 and January 9, 2018 meeting. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Health Agent/Director's Report

Budget

Mr. Oram noted that the present budget is in good order, and thanked the Board Members for their efforts on the future budget requests. Mr. Fetherston made a motion that Mr. Narayana contact the Finance Director to inquire about the "Gifts" under the BOH budget report. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Howe Street Landfill: Review issues, discuss possible future stakeholder meetings

Mr. Oram noted the yearly report was received and was within good order, Mr. Oram said he will get the monthly reports out when they are received. Mr. Oram noted the first test levels are lower since the new vents were installed. Once we receive the monthly report, Mr. Oram will give a report to the Board. Mr. Narayana inquired, and Mr. Oram responded, that we are waiting for the attorneys to make changes to the

contract before it can be finalized. The Board discussed the solar project and agreed that Mr. Oram would look into scheduling a meeting with stakeholders in late March to answer some questions regarding the solar project.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 P.M.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 2/6/2018 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Presentation document prepared by Jon Fetherston re: Assistant Health Agent
2. Presentation document prepared by KG Narayana and Ron Etskovitz re: Additional Hours/
Part-Time Food Inspector
3. 2017 Food Establishment Inspections spreadsheet
4. MA DPH Data Sheet
5. 2016 Ashland BOH Reporting Sheet
6. Ashland BOH food inspection numbers submitted by Judy Margulies
7. ZBA Decision on Connolly Bus Decision
8. MAHB Adult Use of Marijuana – Proposed Regulations
9. Audio Recording of the meeting is available