

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2020
Ashland Town Hall
101 Main Street, Ashland, MA

*Diane Mortensen, Chair
Judi Teller, Clerk
Mark Oram, Agent/Director*

*Chris Daniele, Vice Chair
Ronald Etskovitz, Member
Koduvayur Narayana, Member*

Members Present:

Diane Mortensen, Judi Teller, Ron Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

Others Present:

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Timothy Deschamps, Executive Director
Mark Dassoni, Resident

Call Meeting to Order - 6:00 PM

Ms. Mortensen called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM and noted that the meeting was being recorded by WACA-TV.

Citizens Participation

None.

Timothy Deschamps of Central Mass. Mosquito Control; update on EEE review and programs for mosquito control with updates from Mark Oram on After Action Reviews with State and Town for 2019 on EEE plans for 2020

Mr. Oram introduced Timothy Deschamps, Director of the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Program (CMMCP). Mr. Deschamps presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. The presentation overviewed communities covered by CMMCP and the services offered. Services include Mosquito Surveillance, Education, Ditch Maintenance, Larval Control, Source Reduction, Beaver Mitigation, Adult Mosquito Control, Research and Efficacy. Mr. Deschamps discussed the Tire Removal Program; to date, they have recycled over 32,000 tires. Mr. Deschamps reviewed the steps that were taken after the confirmation of a human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) on September 5, 2020, which included a Town-wide application, trapping and testing. Mr. Deschamps discussed the aerial spraying which occurred throughout the region.

Mr. Deschamps explained the arbovirus transmission cycle, which begins with the bird as the reservoir and mosquitoes as the vector. Mr. Deschamps discussed the Risk Map, and the critical level shown in red on the map, which Ashland was included. Mr. Deschamps overviewed plans for 2020, which include the standard approach as well as additional larval treatments.

Mr. Narayana inquired as to whether CMMCP is informed when there is a new development and wetland system, Mr. Narayana noted he will check the list and make sure all are listed.

Ms. Teller inquired as to horse/equine vaccines for EEE; Mr. Deschamps noted that there is a vaccine for horses as well as literature available. Ms. Teller suggested this information could be sent to horse owners in Town.

Mr. Etskovitz inquired as to how the information CMMCP receives is disseminated; Mr. Deschamps noted that a link to their website is on the Board of Health website, and their website is also linked with MDPH and MDAR.

Ms. Mortensen inquired and Mr. Deschamps responded that the tire recycling program is not available to businesses, Ms. Mortensen noted she would like to get the information regarding the program out to the public. Ms. Mortensen inquired as to the timing of the aerial spray maps being updated, Mr. Deschamps agreed there is a delay but hopes this will improve.

When asked about the forecast for the upcoming year, Mr. Deschamps noted that MDPH will look at information from the previous year; he cannot be certain where Ashland will fall next year, the risk level may start at moderate. Mr. Deschamps will keep Mr. Oram and the Board informed as soon as any information is received.

The Board agreed to send out the information on EEE equine vaccine to horse owners, as well as the tire recycling information, to include DPW, and Class II license holders.

Board Goals and Objectives

Ms. Mortensen will continue to work on the nursing regionalization program with Framingham, as well as working with Mr. Oram to strengthen the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).

Mr. Narayana will continue to work with Mr. Oram and staff on food establishments and regulations, as well as reviewing food permit applications.

Mr. Etskovitz would like to work on public education and awareness for residents through the use of speakers on various topics, and each month highlight a specific issue. Mr. Etskovitz will continue to attend Decisions at Every Turn (DAET) meetings; Ms. Mortensen will attend these meetings as well. Any pertinent information obtained from the DAET meetings will be made during Board of Health meetings as a public advisement.

Ms. Teller would like to work on having an easier process in place for volunteers who apply for the Medical Reserve Corps, and develop the process. Board Members discussed attending Lions Club and Select Board meetings to discuss the MRC. Board Members agreed to keep this item on the agenda. The Board briefly discussed the Coronavirus; Mr. Oram noted that links and information from both the Mass. Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control are available on the Board of Health website as well as the Ashland Facebook page. Ms. Mortensen noted that residents may also sign up for notifications through the Town's website.

Old/New Business

Air Quality Report Update – Warren School

Ms. Mortensen will reach out to Superintendent Jim Adams for any updates, this item will be on the next agenda.

Mary Mortensen Public Health Award, Discuss possible recipients for 2020

Board Members agreed to consider possible recipients and discuss at the next meeting. The Award could be given to the recipient at the first Board of Health meeting in April, at which the family of Mary Mortensen would be able to attend. Board Members discussed a few possible ideas for a recipient.

Chair's Report

Update on Regionalization of Nursing Services

Ms. Mortensen and Mr. Oram will be attending a meeting in Framingham tomorrow, February 19th. Framingham is currently providing nursing services to Ashland residents; Ms. Mortensen would like to get numbers from them regarding services that have been provided. Ms. Mortensen suggested this item stay on the next agenda for an update.

Health Agent's Report

Budget FY20 Updates

Mr. Oram noted the budget is moving steadily through the fiscal year, which ends June 30th.

Food Establishments Updates:

Mazi's Restaurant; McDonald's renovation completed

Mazi's Restaurant is still under construction, the walls are up and there are many large walk-in freezers. McDonald's renovation project is now complete, and they reopened last Monday.

Review Minutes, 2/4/2020

Board Members agreed to strike the last two sentences of the last paragraph on page two.

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the meeting of February 4, 2020. Ms. Teller seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion approved.

Minutes, 12/30/2019

Motion: Ms. Teller made a motion to accept the minutes of December 30, 2019. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion approved.

Minutes, 1/7/2020,

Motion: Mr. Etskovitz made a motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2020. Ms. Teller seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-1. Motion approved. (Mr. Narayana abstained as he was not present for this meeting.)

Discuss Future Agenda Topics for Future Meeting Dates (March 10, 24)

-CeCe Doucette, request to update Board of Health on recent legislation on wireless communication

Ms. Mortensen noted that she has spoken with CeCe Doucette and will invite her to speak at the March 10, 2020 meeting. MRC, Regional Nursing Services, Warren School Air Quality Report, and, Board Goals are other future agenda items.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 2/18/2020 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Central Mass Mosquito Control Program – PPT Presentation
2. FY20, Year-to-Date Budget
3. Draft Minutes, December 30, 2019, January 7, 2020, February 4, 2020
4. Video recording is available at wacatv.com.