

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA
Board of Selectmen 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, Diane Mortensen, Chris Daniele, Ronald Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

Others Present:

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

Call to Order

Mr. Fetherston called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and noted that the meeting was being broadcast live on WACA-TV.

Citizen's Participation

None.

Goals, Objectives, and Communication with Management

Ms. Mortensen believes that due to the excessive amount of time that was spent by the Board in preparing to present an FY20 Budget request for a full-time Public Health Nurse, and since learning that the Board will not be getting the additional position, she suggested the Board invite Management to a future Board of Health meeting to discuss how we will get through the next year with the staff that we have. Because hiring a Nurse was to take some of the workload off of Mr. Oram, Ms. Mortensen noted that if we need to reach out to other resources, this should be done as a Board; she would like the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager to be part of the conversation. The Board discussed the need to document what is not being accomplished over the course of the next year due to lack of staff, this information could then be readily available next year at budget time. Mr. Fetherston noted that he received an email from FinCom and believes there may be a breakdown of communication regarding the budget process. The Board discussed meeting with Management prior to a Board of Health meeting; Ms. Mortensen will check the calendars and get back to the Board with a date.

Discuss Creation of Tobacco/Marijuana Task Force / What is being done in schools for addicted students.

Mr. Fetherston noted that he has been in contact with the Framingham Schools Superintendent and the Mayor who are both very concerned with the vaping epidemic in their schools, Mr. Fetherston provided the Superintendent the video of the vaping seminar that was hosted by Ashland and is glad to see communities working together. Mr. Oram noted that he spoke to Superintendent Jim Adams who will have the Principals of the schools get back to him with their policies and objectives related to tobacco addiction. Ms. Mortensen noted that she will be attending the DAET (Decisions at Every Turn) meeting next Monday; Mr. Narayana will be attending the Wellness Committee that same evening. Ms. Mortensen and Mr.

Etskovitz agreed they will both attend the DAET meeting; the Board discussed coordinating their efforts with DAET.

Possible Narcan Training – Ashland Businesses / Ashland Business Association

Mr. Fetherston reached out to Mike Kane of the ABA (Ashland Business Association) to let him know that narcan training is available to any businesses, Cynthia Whitty was also going to send out an email blast to everyone in the ABA. Mr. Fetherston thanked the ABA for their support. Mr. Oram thanked Kelly Joseph and Sergeant Ed Burman for offering to train. Mr. Daniele suggested creating a quality video, with the help of WACA, of the training process which could be made available to the public and posted on the website; the Board agreed this is a great idea.

Review Historical Cancer Registry Reports

Mr. Oram discussed the Cancer Registry Reports and noted that Standard Incidence Rates determine if a town is above or below the State average; if it is below 5, the number may be unavailable due to the size of the town. Mr. Oram noted the reports are sent in four year cycles, he discussed the importance of sun protection and regular medical checkups. The Board agreed that without context, the numbers could confuse people. If people have questions about the reports they should call the Board of Health office.

Discuss Eversource Gas Line Project

Mr. Oram noted this project is a multi-year process, the Eversource representatives came to a Tech Review meeting on February 5th. Mr. Oram discussed the issues that the Board of Health would oversee during the project, such as anti-idling, excessive noise and dust/mud control. Mr. Narayana explained that the pipe will be much larger and there were concerns with the existing pipes being left in the ground. The larger pipes will allow more gas to get through. Conservation Commission will be meeting again on February 25th, Mr. Fetherston suggested that Mr. Narayana speak to the Commission to see if there is any interest in the two Boards meeting to discuss any public safety concerns and report back to the Board of Health. Mr. Narayana inquired as to whether the Board received an Environmental Impact Study regarding the Eversource Project. Mr. Oram was not aware of receiving this, but will look into it.

Discuss Mary Mortensen Public Health Award

Ms. Mortensen noted that Janet Gamache has been working with the Green Up Committee for many years, she would like the Board to recognize Ms. Gamache's many years of public service as she steps down from the Committee by nominating her for this year's Mary Mortensen Public Health Award. Ms. Mortensen made a motion to nominate Janet Gamache for the 2019 Mary Mortensen Public Health Award. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Health Agent's Report

- a. **Budget FY19/FY20 - including increasing hours for Public Health Nurse to a minimum of 10 hours per week** – Mr. Oram noted that the FY19 budget is at 64%, which is where it should be at this point. Mr. Oram noted that funds for Purchase of Nursing Services is running low, currently at 88.8%. This has been addressed with Management and the Finance Director. In an email that was sent to Management, it was noted that we would appreciate any additional hours for Nursing Services, Management was also made aware of the increase in hours for Food Inspections. The maximum amount that can be expended from the Food Inspection Revolving Fund is \$30,000. Mr. Oram noted that MIS is pricing out an additional Surface Pro computer for the Department to be used out on the field. Mr. Narayana requested that the breakdown of the Food Inspection Program funds be sent to the Board Members.

- b. **Mill Pond Rest Home, status of past concerns/communications with State Department of Public Health** – Mr. Oram noted that he received a call from Elizabeth Pungitore of DPH, Department of Division of Nursing and Rest Homes, inquiring about the status of the food inspections at Mill Pond and any other concerns. Mr. Oram reported his concern regarding availability of staff on site when safety officers have arrived at Mill Pond. Mr. Oram noted that Rest Homes require inspections by the State every two years, additional inspections occur if a complaint is received. Mr. Oram was told that his contact person at DPH is now Stephen Reardon. Mr. Fetherston noted they have still not received a written response from the State after the Board’s letter/request for a full inspection. Board Members noted that although Mill Pond is in compliance, the State has not been responsive to the concerns. Mr. Daniele suggested that any areas the Board of Health has oversight of, must be held to a high standard. The Board discussed the deficiencies of Mill Pond’s Disaster Plan. Mr. Fetherston will contact Stephen Reardon. Mark Dassoni, resident, asked that the Board stay on top of the issues at Mill Pond, or the residents will suffer.

- c. **Review of Alcohol Policy Learning Session, Central MetroWest Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative, January 31, 2019** – Mr. Oram noted that the main speaker at the Alcohol Policy Learning Session was DJ Wilson; Colin Galant is the coordinator of the Region grant. Mr. Galant’s goal was to get Towns to update their regulations, he said Ashland was doing well when it came to TIPS training and liquor outlet density. DJ Wilson was promoting the effectiveness of tobacco regulations. The banning of small liquor bottles (“nips”) was discussed, this is currently being considered in the City of Chelsea.

- d. **Public Health Emergency Funding, grants for Stop the Bleed, supplies and conferences-** Mike Gurnick, Medical Reserve Corps. Chair, will be attending an out-of-state conference, Mr. Oram also attended two conferences, both through the use of Public Health Emergency Funds. General Coalition Public Health Emergency Funding will be utilized for the purchase of first aid and sheltering supplies, such as outlet strips for charging stations and hot/cold packs.

- e. **Receipt of Addendum to Food Permit Applications** – Mr. Oram noted that we have received back 24 Addendums to the Food Permit Application. Mr. Narayana will review them once we receive more forms back from the vendors.

- f. **Green Up Ashland event, volunteers and planners for May 4, 2019 event** – Mr. Oram noted that the Green Up Ashland Committee is looking for volunteers for the event on May 4th; Mr. Oram thanked Mr. Etskovitz for volunteering to help out on the day of the event.

Review of Minutes, January 29, February 5, 2019

Ms. Mortensen made a motion to approve the minutes of January 29, 2019, Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0-2 (Mr. Daniele and Mr. Narayana abstained as they were not present for this meeting).

Mr. Daniele made a motion to approve the February 5, 2019 minutes as presented, Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0-1 (Ms. Mortensen abstained as she was not present for this meeting).

Discuss Future Agenda Topics and Meeting Dates

Next meeting date: 3/5/2019.

Ms. Mortensen requested that the date to present the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award be changed to April 2nd so that the family may attend. Board Members agreed.

Mr. Daniele would like to include a water quality update on the next agenda to address any concerns. The Board discussed touring the water treatment plan as a group, Mr. Oram will arrange this.

Mr. Oram will update the Board on the gas mitigation system at the Landfill.

Mr. Dassoni requested that as a future agenda item, the Board find out how the community could become a Heart Healthy Community.

Adjournment

Mr. Daniele made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 2/19/2019 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Board of Health FY19 YTD Budget
2. Mill Pond Rest Home – Letter to State DPH, from Ashland Board of Health
3. National Cancer Registry Statistics 2008-2015
4. Alcohol Policy Meeting Notes
5. Draft Meeting Minutes – 1/29/2019, 2/5/2018