

Ashland Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2021  
Zoom/Online Meeting

*Diane Mortensen, Chair*  
*Ronald Etskovitz, Member*  
*Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, Member*

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

**Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:**

Diane Mortensen, Chris Daniele, Ron Etskovitz, Koduvayur Narayana and Barbra Sekesogundu Simon

**Others Present:**

Sergeant Ed Burman, Ashland Police Department  
Laura Clifford, BOH Admin. Secretary  
Mark Dassoni, Resident

**Call Meeting to Order - 6:00 PM**

Ms. Mortensen called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and noted the meeting was being recorded by WACA-TV.

**Citizen's Participation**

Mark Dassoni is glad that he and his Dad have stayed free of COVID and is looking forward to getting the vaccine.

Mr. Narayana requested that the Board observe a moment of silence in memory of the lives lost due to COVID-19. A moment of silence was observed.

**Updates on COVID-19**

Sergeant Burman discussed the ongoing discussions with the State regarding a proposed regional vaccination site in collaboration with the towns of Sherborn, Hopkinton, Westborough, Northborough, Southborough and Boylston. The State originally rejected the proposal; the group of officials from those towns have submitted a revised proposal to the State. Sgt. Burman discussed the clinic held in Hopkinton, which allowed for approximately 350-375 eligible Ashland residents to be vaccinated. They were also able to administer vaccines to four homebound seniors. As of last Friday (Feb. 26), approximately 10% of our population have been vaccinated. Sgt. Burman noted that the Department of Public Health (DPH) came out today with criteria regarding what is "homebound". Sgt. Burman discussed how to register on the State website for vaccination appointments. Sgt. Burman discussed the reopening plan for the schools; the tentative reopening date for grades K-5 is April 5<sup>th</sup>. Sgt. Burman noted that when they speak to COVID positive individuals, they check to see if there are other services that are needed. Grades 6-12 reopening date has not yet been determined. Mr. Daniele expressed concern regarding restaurants reopening and maintaining proper safety protocols. Sgt. Burman noted that Ashland restaurants have done great, and some may maintain their lower capacity limits.

**Discuss Mary Mortensen Public Health Award, 2021**

Ms. Mortensen read the concept behind the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award which was created to honor longtime Board of Health Member, Mary "Penny" Mortensen.

The Board agreed that Sergeant Ed Burman has gone well above and beyond his job in his handling of the Town's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people have stepped up during the pandemic, but Ed Burman has done a superior job and has exceeded expectations; he has lead the charge and has been working proactively 24-7 to stay on top of all the issues.

**Motion:** Ms. Mortensen suggested a motion that Ed Burman be the Honoree of this year's Mary Mortensen Public Health Award, Mr. Narayana so moved the motion. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion.

**Vote:** 5-0. Motion approved.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Budget, FY2021**

#### **Minutes, January 5, 2021, January 20, 2021, February 2, 2021**

**Motion:** Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with a revision to the January 20<sup>th</sup> minutes. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion.

**Vote:** 5-0. Motion approved.

### **Inter-Municipal Agreement, Update**

Ms. Mortensen discussed the Inter-Municipal Agreement for shared nursing services between Ashland, Framingham, Hudson and Holliston; she will be meeting with the group this week and is still planning to move forward at this time.

### **Medical Reserve Corps., Update**

Ms. Mortensen noted that Roberta Ho, Regional Coordinator, has sent out an email to alert MRC Members that they need to go onto the Mass Responds site to update their credentials. Ms. Mortensen urged all to join, noting we need Members if we need to call out for assistance. This will remain on the agenda to continue to recruit new Members.

### **Board of Health Agent/Director Position, Update**

Ms. Mortensen noted that an offer and acceptance were made, but unfortunately the applicant withdrew. There are a couple other interested candidates who are scheduled for interviews.

### **Discuss Agenda Topics for Future Meeting Dates, March 16, 2021**

- Tom Curran is working with Family Dollar; he will bring them in when he feels it is appropriate.
- Metrowest Regional Tobacco Control Program Agent
- Tobacco violation fine amounts, whether to be included in the Regulations. Vendors should be made aware.
- Mary Mortensen Public Health Award
- Medical Reserve Corps.
- Inter-municipal Agreement for Nursing Services

### **Adjournment**

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

**Vote:** 5-0. Motion is approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 3/2/2021 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Covid-19 Charts
2. Minutes, January 5, 2021, January 20, 2021, February 2, 2021
3. YTD Budget FY2021
4. A recording of the meeting can be found on WACA-TV