

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 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, Chris Daniele, Ronald Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

Members Absent:

Diane Mortensen

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 7:05 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live on WACA-TV.

Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni recognized all those from the Town and schools who attended the Silver Celebration, in which over 300 people attended. Mr. Dassoni noted that Jake was a class act and a fighter to the end, he also commended Jake's family and friends for their strength, especially Jake's Mom, Melissa.

(Mr. Narayana arrived at the meeting at 7:09 PM)

Mr. Etskovitz announced that he attended a great fundraising event for sisters, Alison and Michelle Rose, who will be running the Boston Marathon this year; Michelle is running to raise money for the Town, Alison is running to raise money to fund research for Mass. Eye and Ear. If anyone is interested in making a donation they may contact Susan Robie, or email alison@wacatv.com.

Update on February 25, 2019 Decisions at Every Turn Meeting

Mr. Etskovitz noted that he and Vice Chair Diane Mortensen recently attended the DAET (Decisions at Every Turn) meeting; and that they were both impressed. The meeting was well run and was a great environment. Mr. Etskovitz noted that he and Ms. Mortensen came away believing it is not necessary to reinvent the wheel, but there are certainly ways the Board can collaborate with DAET. Mr. Etskovitz discussed the disciplinary measures that are taken when a student is found in possession of vaping materials, or caught vaping. Mr. Etskovitz noted DAET is currently conducting an updated student survey; this information will be used to find ways to improve and educate. Mr. Etskovitz noted they discussed ways to warn of the dangers of vaping – which could be by suggesting that retailers give out information sheets when they sell vape kits; they also discussed ways to limit advertising, enforcement of regulations and penalties, and

training for tobacco retailers. Mr. Etskovitz commended the students that spoke out during the Board of Health meeting against vaping, and thanked the DAET team for all their hard work and for caring about the kids. Mr. Narayana made a motion to appoint Ron Etskovitz as liaison to the DAET Committee. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. Mr. Etskovitz would also like to occasionally invite DAET to Board of Health meetings as well. The motion was approved 4-0.

(Mr. Oram arrived at the meeting at 7:22 PM)

Mr. Fetherston read an online report (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/03/04/fda-walgreens-walmart-tobacco-sales/3057294002/>) in which the FDA accuses 15 national retailers of selling tobacco products to minors after finding high rates of sales to youth during undercover checks, the report also notes that the FDA has sent letters to 40 companies citing possible illegal marketing of tobacco products; Mr. Fetherston noted he is glad to see the government stepping up.

Mr. Daniele discussed a possible TIPS-like certification for retail tobacco vendors. Mr. Oram noted that MAHB also does tobacco training but is not always well attended; Mr. Oram suggested the Board may want to look at certification as a requirement of receiving a Tobacco Sales Permit.

Town Water Quality Statement from Dan Maurer, Water/Sewer General Foreman

Mr. Daniele read a portion of the statement from Jeffery Fournier which states “Although an aesthetic issue as defined by compliance regulations and NOT a public health hazard, the Water Department is responding to all complaints...”. Mr. Daniele discussed how chatter on social media can sometimes cause a panic and if anyone has any concerns they should contact the Board of Health office or a Town official. Mr. Oram added that it has been a high groundwater season and the color issue is probably from vegetative matter; we have one of the most high-tech plants in the country to handle this. Mr. Fetherston noted he would like to have Mr. Maurer come to a Board of Health meeting to discuss this, at the next meeting if possible.

Discussion - How can Ashland Be a Heart Healthy Community

Mark Dassoni had suggested this topic be on the Board of Health’s agenda; specifically, what is the required criteria to achieve ‘Heart Safe Community’ status. Mr. Oram noted that we learned from Ms. Mortensen that in 2007, the Town was accepted as a Heart Safe Community, along with 162 other towns. The Program requires that communities have AEDs (automated external defibrillators) located within their public buildings, CPR training available, and resuscitation protocols for first responders and hospitals. Mr. Dassoni noted that “Heart Safe” signs had been located at Oak Street and one was next to Mill Pond; Mr. Oram said we can look at reenergizing this program. Mr. Daniele discussed incorporating upcoming projects, such as the Riverwalk and the Upper Charles River Bike Trail, as ways to bring the community together in a healthy way. Mr. Oram discussed including the Public Health Nurse as part of the initiative, by offering promotional programs such as blood pressure clinics.

KG Narayana Report

a) Food Permit Application Review

Mr. Narayana shared a spreadsheet and reviewed a sample of food permit applications and the associated addendums and found to have a shortfall in the amount of coverage by trained staff for anti-choke (AC) and certified food manager (CFM) compared to the total number of operating hours per week. This issue needs a thorough review in the near future and an action plan to remedy the shortfall.

An additional shorter food permit application form was proposed that would be used for retailers who do not require a CFM; Mr. Narayana noted he would like to see the application made available electronically to ensure applicants thoroughly complete the form. The Board agreed that Mr. Narayana will speak to MIS and others regarding the electronic application.

b) Update on February 25, 2019 Wellness Committee Meeting

Mr. Narayana reported that he attended the Wellness Committee Meeting on February 25th, the Committee Members discussed attending an upcoming Board of Health meeting to spread information on the Wellness Program. Lisa Beaudin, Director of Nutrition Services, is working with her staff to ensure healthy menus, and the schools are working to adopt new physical education programs such as yoga and tai chi.

c) Eversource, Proposed Gas Line, Status Update

Mr. Narayana noted that the Conservation Commission postponed their selection of a peer reviewer, this will be done during the March 25th meeting which will be televised. Mr. Narayana suggested that the Board have a liaison appointed to the project; Mr. Narayana made a motion that the Board appoint Jon Fetherston as the liaison for the Eversource Project. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. Mr. Fetherston noted that he will only be on the Board until May. The motion was approved 4-0.

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 discussed his earlier meeting with FinCom; he felt the information was well received and there were great questions. Nancy Cleary was also at the FinCom meeting to answer any medical questions. Mr. Oram noted that he discussed with FinCom the promotional services that could be included with additional hours for the Public Health Nurse; he also noted that Framingham vaccinated 50 Ashland residents for school entry and 200 residents at a flu clinic. Students have the opportunity to go to the free clinic in Shrewsbury, or the Edward Kennedy Health Center in Framingham for vaccinations, however they would need to apply for insurance which could take a couple weeks and they could lose school time. Mr. Oram noted that Sam Wong, Framingham Health Director, is going to get back to him regarding the cost if Framingham were to continue service to Ashland residents.

Mr. Oram noted that during the FinCom meeting he discussed the opioid issues, hoarding, and vaping concerns and requested a minimum of ten hours for the nurse. Mr. Oram noted to FinCom that he would also like to see an Assistant Health Agent position considered, and that this could be financed through the revolving funds. Mr. Oram noted that he is grateful for the two additional public health-related positions that were added but believes there should be a medical component.

Mr. Narayana also attended the FinCom meeting but did not want to speak on behalf of the Board; he noted that it is important for the Board to have data, including the number of hoarding cases, TB cases, etc. Mr. Narayana also discussed requesting additional funds from the General Fund for food inspections.

b) Howe Street Landfill Passive Gas Vent System Performance Evaluation, Dated February 1, 2019

Mr. Oram reviewed the Gas Vent System Performance Evaluation and noted that groundwater monitoring well GMW-9 was an area of concern; Mr. Oram spoke to John Morey of DEP who said they will continue to monitor. Mr. Narayana would like to have the contractor come to an

upcoming meeting; Mr. Oram noted he can answer any questions and that it could be costly to have a representative from EnviroTrac attend a night meeting.

c) Food Inspection Reports – Updates

Mr. Oram reported that on Monday, February 25th there was a power outage after a transformer blew and a tree caught on fire. Eversource shut down power on Rt. 135; 15 food vendors were without power, two had generators. Mr. Oram went to the various restaurants/retailers, and discussed how to keep the food safe with the person in charge; Mr. Oram would like to see training on emergency action items, as many were not following protocol by closing down and were given a warning.

Green Up Ashland Day, Volunteers and Planners for May 4, 2019 Event

Mr. Oram noted that they have a group of volunteers who heard about Green Up through Beth Reynolds. The Green Up Committee will be meeting tomorrow night and is still looking for additional volunteers and planners to help with set up. Mr. Oram thanked the Worcester DPW for the yellow bags. This will be Green Up Ashland's 17th year.

Review of Minutes, February 19, 2019

Mr. Narayana made a motion to accept the minutes of February 19, 2019 as presented. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. Mr. Fetherston inquired, and Mr. Oram responded, that Mill Pond has paid their fine and is working on their evacuation plan. Mr. Fetherston noted that he had a conversation with Judy Bernice of DPH and was told the State will be getting more responsive. The motion was approved 4-0.

Discuss Future Agenda Topics and Meeting Dates

Next meeting date: March 19, 2019. Mr. Daniele will not be available. Mr. Oram noted the Board may want to discuss age restrictions on CBD products, Board Accreditation, and consider looking at the fee schedule.

Adjournment

Mr. Narayana made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 3/5/2019 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Letter re: Water Quality from Jeffery Fournier, Plant Manager
2. Howe Street Landfill Gas Vent System Performance Evaluation
3. Food Permit Application/Short Form
4. Spreadsheet - Food Establishment Data from Food Permit Applications
5. Email from Paul Vieira re: vaping incidences at Middle School and HS
6. Draft Meeting Minutes – 2/19/2019