

Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 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:**

Chris Daniele, Ron Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

**Members Absent:**

Diane Mortensen, Judi Teller

**Others Present:**

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director  
Nancy Cleary, Public Health Nurse  
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary  
Cece Doucette, Resident  
Mark Dassoni, Resident

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

Mr. Daniele called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and noted that the meeting was being recorded by WACA-TV.

**Citizens Participation**

None.

**Cece Doucette, Wireless Communications**

Cecelia (Cece) Doucette, Technology Safety Educator, noted that it had been almost a year since she last presented to the Board of Health, she thanked the Board for inviting her back to discuss wireless technology safety.

Ms. Doucette presented a slideshow: Wireless Radiation Update. Ms. Doucette discussed her research repository Understanding EMFs, she noted that she helped Ashland to become first-in-nation with Best Practices for Mobile Devices and has introduced legislation with Senator Spilka and Representative Lewis to examine the risks of wireless technology. New Hampshire passed this into law in seven months, Massachusetts has yet to pass it.

Ms. Doucette discussed the cumulative effect of microwave radiation that we are being exposed to, she noted that this limit is currently being ignored. Twenty Bills have been filed in Massachusetts, this legislative session is advancing Bills S.129 to investigate, S.1988 is to opt-out of utility smart meters. House Bill H.383 has been extended.

Ms. Doucette discussed Massachusetts School and Municipal Solutions; she noted they have presented to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), however, DESE has not acted, nor has the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Doucette discussed the Small Cell Policy regarding requests for small cell equipment to be placed on utility poles; Ms. Doucette noted she has

spoken with the Town Planner and would like to see Ashland take the Small Cell Policy under advisement. Ashland Bylaws have a 300-foot setback to where a wireless communication facility can be located. Eversource does not have an opt-out option for customers who do not want utility smart meters on their homes. Ms. Doucette demonstrated the acoustimeter which measures radio frequency, this was purchased through a grant from the Select Board and may be loaned out to Ashland residents through the Ashland Public Library.

Ms. Doucette discussed Professional Solutions as well as Home & Work Solutions. Ms. Doucette discussed Municipal Solutions such as following the ALARA principle regarding radio frequency levels: As Low As Reasonably Achievable; she noted that the industry must be held accountable for safe technology in our communities.

Ms. Doucette thanked the Board and answered questions from Board Members. Mr. Narayana suggested that Ms. Doucette may wish to contact the School Committee to give input during the construction planning phase of the new school building; Ms. Doucette agreed. Ms. Doucette noted that people should use a hollow tube or air tube headset rather than a Bluetooth headset.

Mr. Daniele noted the importance of the legislative process and, as residents, making your voice heard.

Mark Dassoni, resident, discussed the Ashland Bylaw, and the 300-foot setback. Mr. Dassoni noted that he is thankful for Ms. Doucette's presentation, and that the industry must consider safety over profit.

### **Old/New Business**

#### **Air Quality Report Update – Warren School**

Mr. Daniele read the Report for Indoor Air Quality Study at the Warren School. The Report was provided to the Board of Health by Superintendent Jim Adams, the testing was conducted by Universal Environmental Consultants. Mr. Daniele noted that the Report is part of the public record; Mr. Oram suggested they may want to continue routine monitoring until such time that the levels are at the acceptable range for two straight tests. The report suggests that additional fresh air needs to be circulated. Mr. Narayana suggested these Reports be sent electronically to the Board.

#### **Mary Mortensen Public Health Award, Discuss possible recipients for 2020**

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved.

#### **2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID- 19), update on MA DPH, CDC and WHO information**

Mr. Oram noted he has been attending various meetings regarding Coronavirus, including with School Superintendents who all agreed consistent messaging and guidance is imperative. There is a State Department of Public Health teleconference scheduled for tomorrow. Mr. Oram discussed the letter that was sent by Superintendent Jim Adams regarding HIPAA laws, Mr. Oram noted the importance of confidentiality. The message from Management to employees is if you are sick to stay home; this message is also being directed to food establishments. Other important messaging is hand washing. Nancy Cleary discussed the 14 day self-quarantine requirement for any persons that have traveled from certain countries. Mr. Oram noted that cases will most likely come in, and Management is aware we will need funding for Public Health Nursing. Mr. Oram discussed a drive-up testing site at Newton Wellesley Hospital. Mr. Oram noted that children seem to be less susceptible to coronavirus. There are no bans at this time, but we will need to start looking at large events. Mr. Narayana suggested that Market Basket and Shaw's be urged to provide extra sanitizing wipes for the carts. The Facilities Department will be increasing cleaning frequency. Mr. Narayana suggested Mill Pond Rest Home be contacted to review protocols. Ms. Doucette spoke to the Board regarding a report she read which suggested 5G wireless radiation hits the immune system especially hard.

### **Medical Reserve Corps, Updates**

Mr. Oram noted he has met with Michael Gurnick, MRC Chair. A list has been created to track MRC members, where they are in the process, and those who have been credentialed.

### **Health Agent's Report**

#### **Budget FY20 Updates**

Mr. Oram noted that if there is a need for public health nursing, this budget line item may go up. Mr. Oram is working with Tom Curran in getting a new software program, we have gone through two webinar sessions with software vendors. Mr. Narayana asked that he be sent the links to the webinars, he may be able to help decide which product would be best.

### **Food Establishments Updates: Mazi's**

Mr. Oram noted that Mazi's Restaurant is coming along, and will be an upscale pizza facility. Mr. Oram noted that the American Legion is closed as of February 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Review Minutes, 2/18/2020**

**Motion:** Mr. Narayana made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

**Vote:** 3-0. Motion approved.

### **Discuss Future Agenda Topics for Future Meeting Dates (March 24, 2020)**

- Assistant School Superintendent, Paul Vieira, to discuss vaping in schools.
- Mary Mortensen Award
- Coronavirus Updates

### **Adjournment**

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

**Vote:** 3-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 3/10/2020 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Wireless Radiation Update – PPT Presentation
2. Report for Indoor Air Quality Study at the Warren School
3. FY20, Year-to-Date Budget
4. Draft Minutes, February 18, 2020
5. Video recording is available at [wacatv.com](http://wacatv.com).