

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

Members Absent:

Chris Daniele

Others Present:

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Dan Maurer, Water/Sewer General Foreman, DPW
Mark Dassoni, Resident

Call to Order

Mr. Fetherston called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live on WACA-TV.

Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni thanked the Town/Fire Department for their response and help to a medical need at his home on Friday. Doctors told him he did the right thing by calling for assistance.

Dan Maurer, Water and Sewer Department, Review of Water Quality

Dan Maurer of the Ashland DPW discussed the Town's water quality after recent comments were made on social media regarding water issues. Mr. Maurer assured the Board and the community that the issue is purely aesthetical and is due to natural occurring elements in the water system such as iron and manganese settling, or from being stirred up after a main break. Mr. Maurer shared with the Board the results of the sample testing that was done in response to the complaints received; all were well within the limits. Three of the 20 that were sampled slightly exceeded DEP's recommendations for color. Mr. Maurer explained the process as to how the Water Treatment Plant works and noted that it is continuously monitored. Mr. Maurer noted that his Department takes every complaint very seriously. Board Members discussed touring the facility; Mr. Maurer said he would help arrange this.

Approval of New Food Permit Applications

Food establishments which do not require a Certified Food Manager will be able to utilize this shorter food permit application, this form will simplify the process for applicants. Mr. Narayana suggested using an alternative colored paper so it is easier to identify. Mr. Narayana made a motion that the Board adopt this form for non-CFM requiring establishments. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Mr. Narayana explained that he has updated the spreadsheet he is working on regarding the number of CFM's and employees who are chokesaver certified. Board Members reviewed the revised spreadsheet and discussed possibly hosting a chokesaver training.

Health Agent's Report

a) Budget FY19/FY20

Mr. Oram noted that the budget is at about 73%. The Nursing Services budget line is down to about \$116, the Finance Director will be transferring \$2,500 from Contracted Services to Nursing Services. The Board reviewed the Food Services / Revenue spreadsheet; an additional line will be added to the spreadsheet to include revenue from The Corner Spot. The Board will discuss the fee schedule at an upcoming meeting.

b) Review Proposed Form for "Packaged Food Only", Facilities not requiring a Food Permit

Mr. Oram explained that the Food Inspector, Tom Curran, had provided a form that is currently used in Boston for establishments that sell only non-TCS (Time/Temperature Control for Safety) foods for smaller convenience stores, this form will verify that they are not selling perishable foods. The Board agreed to change the heading from Health Permit Update to Health Disclosure Form. Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the Health Permit Update Form with amendments suggested by Diane Mortensen. Ms. Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

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

Mr. Oram noted his appreciation for the new Members that have joined the Green Up Ashland Committee, as well as the local media, the vendors, and the volunteers who have committed to helping out at the event on May 4th.

d) Dona Walsh, Animal Inspector, Nominee

Mr. Oram noted that in addition to the nomination form for Dona Walsh, a nomination form was also received for Sophie Shulman but was not received in time to be added to the agenda for this meeting. The Board agreed to only take action on the nomination form that is listed on the agenda. Mr. Narayana made a motion that the Board approve Dona Walsh's nomination as presented, assuming we have the authority by law to do so. Ms. Mortensen seconded the motion. Mr. Fetherston commended Dona Walsh on all of her work for the Town. Mr. Oram noted that the Animal Inspector works under the Police, the Selectmen, and the Board of Health. The motion was approved 4-0. The nomination form for Sophie Shulman will be on the next agenda.

Review of Minutes, March 5, 2019

Mr. Narayana made a motion to accept the amended minutes as presented today, of the meeting held March 5, 2019. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0-1 (Ms. Mortensen abstained as she was absent from this meeting).

Discuss Future Agenda Topics and Meeting Dates

Next meeting date: April 2, 2019. Topics: the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award, the Town Manager will attend, Mill Pond Rest Home update, Assistant Animal Inspector nomination, Food Permit Analysis, Tick Borne Illness, Mosquito Control and overview of Pesticide Regulations. Ms. Mortensen suggested sending a copy of the Pesticide Regulations to DPW, given the turnover and new employees working at DPW. Mr. Narayana discussed a school construction project in Cambridge; and noted that with the new building of

Mindess coming up, the Board of Health may want to connect with the contractors to discuss new “green” technologies.

Adjournment

Mr. Narayana made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 3/19/2019 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Letter re: Water Quality from Jeffery Fournier, Plant Manager
2. Water Quality Reports received from Dan Maurer, General Foreman
3. Food Permit Application/Short Form
4. Food Permit Disclosure Form
5. Revised spreadsheet of Food Establishments, CFMs and Chokesaver Certified
6. Spreadsheet, FY19 YTD Total – Food Revenue
7. FY19 YTD Budget
8. Draft Meeting Minutes – 3/5/2019