

Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.  
Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

*Ronald Etskovitz, Chairman*  
*Jon A. Fetherston, Vice Chairman*  
*Mark Oram, Agent/Director*

*Koduvayur Narayana, Clerk*  
*Chris Daniele, Member*  
*Judith Margulies, Member*

**Members Present:**

Ronald Etskovitz, Jon Fetherston, Koduvayur Narayana and Chris Daniele

**Members Absent:**

Judith Margulies

**Others Present:**

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director  
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary  
Mark Dassoni, Resident  
Janet and Ed Hart, Residents  
Susan, Keith, Hunter and Travis Robie, Residents  
Diane and Ron Mortensen, Residents  
Rick Araya, Resident  
Elaine Kelley, Resident

**Call to Order**

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and noted that the meeting was being video and audio recorded; he then turned the meeting over to Mr. Fetherston for the presentation of the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award.

**First Annual Mary Mortensen Public Health Award Ceremony, Recipient Edward P. Hart, Jr.**

Mr. Fetherston spoke about his relationship with longtime Ashland resident and Board of Health Member Mary Mortensen, and acknowledged her contributions to the Town over the years and recognized Mary's family members in the audience. Mr. Fetherston explained that Edward Hart would be the first recipient of the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award because of his many accomplishments during his time on the Board of Health and as an Ashland resident. Mr. Fetherston read a proclamation and presented Mr. Hart with a plaque to be displayed in Town Hall, and the proclamation certificate.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting back to order at 7:27 p.m.

**Read Letter of Support to Parkland, Florida residents**

Mr. Etskovitz read a letter he had written on behalf of the Board to express the Board's condolences and pledge of support to the residents of Parkland, Florida after the tragedy that struck their community. Mr. Narayana made a motion that the letter be signed by the Board and sent out. Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. The Board thanked Mr. Etskovitz for writing the letter.

**Sergeant Ed Burman, to discuss statistics on emergency Narcan use in Ashland**

Sergeant Ed Burman explained to the Board that in 2016 the Ashland Police Department became the first Department in Metrowest to carry Narcan; this is when they began keeping statistics. In Ashland in 2016, Ashland Police responded to 18 overdoses, 14 of which Narcan was used, and there were five deaths. In 2017, they responded to 14 overdoses, 14 times Narcan was used, and there were two deaths. In 2018, they have responded to two overdoses and there was one death; Narcan was used in both instances. Sergeant

Burman explained that he is currently teaching 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, through the Wellness Program, the dangers of opiates, vaping and marijuana. Discussion ensued regarding whether the epidemic is slowing, or if Narcan is mitigating the rise. Sergeant Burman credited Decisions at Every Turn for implementing the Wellness Program and believes education is a crucial piece; Sergeant Burman would like to see education start in elementary school and teachers trained to identify warning signs. The Board thanked Sergeant Burman for his time and everything he does for the Community. Mr. Fetherston commented that Boards of Health will need to take a leadership position on this issue.

Elaine Kelly, resident, agreed that it is important to start educating children younger due to the social pressures and mental health issues going on with children today. Mr. Fetherston commented that the Board should consider holding a public forum. Mr. Oram suggested working with Decisions at Every Turn.

### **Citizen's Participation**

Mark Dassoni, resident, welcomed Chris Daniele as a new Board Member, and commented that, as a home health caretaker, health issues are important to him. Mr. Dassoni believes education and communication at the elementary level is important.

### **Address Rick Araya complaint regarding Connolly Bus fueling procedure**

Rick Araya, resident, explained that he was driving by Connolly Bus parking lot and observed what he believed to be a person fueling the bus without the use of a bucket, only a hose. Mr. Araya stated that the agreement was to have all safety equipment available to avoid spills. Mr. Araya is afraid these spills will end up in the wetlands. Mr. Daniele handed out photos he printed from the video shared by Mr. Araya. Mr. Oram said it depends on the ZBA Decision as to whose jurisdiction this falls under. Mr. Oram said he has spoken with Steve Sullivan of Connolly Bus who is willing to attend a Board of Health meeting and will reach out to set up a date.

### **Board Reorganization**

The Board discussed whether a full Board is necessary to reorganize and whether that is possible. Mr. Narayana stated that it is not a stipulated regulation but rather a courtesy to wait for a full Board, adding there is a majority of four Members here tonight.

Mr. Narayana nominated Ron Etskovitz as Chairman. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Mr. Fetherston nominated Chris Daniele as the Vice Chairman. Mr. Daniele noted that, being his first meeting, he would rather see a more experienced Member in this position for now, he then nominated Jon Fetherston as Vice Chairman. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Mr. Daniele nominated KG Narayana as the Clerk. Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

### **Nomination of Dona Walsh as Inspector of Animals**

Mr. Oram explained there must be an annual nomination of the Animal Inspector by the Board, which is then sent to the Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources; Mr. Oram asked the Board to nominate Dona Walsh as Animal Inspector. Mr. Daniele inquired as to the role and functions of the Animal Inspector. Mr. Narayana made a motion to nominate Dona Walsh as the Inspector of Animals assuming we have the power to do so. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

### **Discuss food and safety protocols during power outage/storm**

Mr. Oram discussed the various protocols utilized during a power outage; restaurants may seal a walk-in cooler or freezer door, and monitor the temperature. Mr. Oram recommended food establishments, as well as homeowners throw out any food they are unsure of, to not take any chances. Mr. Daniele distributed [A Consumer's Guide to Food Safety](#) brochure to the Board, and suggested this be put on the Board of Health website as a link. Mr. Fetherston mentioned his communication with Eversource during the power outage, and believes that the management of Eversource could use improvement; Mr. Fetherston noted it may be

helpful for residents to understand the process. Mr. Etskovitz said he would draft a letter to Eversource sharing the Board's concerns.

**MWRA Water Supply, Legal Opinion received from Town Counsel, Lisa Mead**

Mr. Etskovitz explained that he had received an email from the Town Manager with a legal opinion provided by Town Counsel indicating that the supplemental water supply issue is out of the Board of Health's hands, which he forwarded to the other Board Members. Mr. Fetherston said he is appreciative of Mr. Herbert's follow through and providing the Board with an answer regarding this issue.

**Discuss Adult Use Cannabis (J. Fetherston)**

Mr. Narayana would like the Board of Health to weigh in on the Trichome medical marijuana facility and suggested possibly inviting representatives from that Company to attend a Board of Health meeting. Mr. Fetherston noted that it is important to get Town officials and first responders together in a public forum to be prepared for the issues that will occur with the legalization of adult use marijuana, it may be best to have this forum prior to Town Meeting. Mr. Etskovitz offered to draft a letter to see if there is interest in meeting at the April 17th meeting.

**Review and update the permit application for food establishments (K. Narayana)**

Mr. Narayana explained that the updated food permit application will allow us to expand the data collection; it provides more space for additional certified food managers and includes more detailed hours of operation. Mr. Narayana stated the application will be adaptable for completion online at a later date, and the data could be extracted. Mr. Daniele suggested ways to improve the format. Mr. Narayana made a motion that the revised form be adopted with the format to be edited by Chris. Mr. Oram suggested the Board of Health office send the updated application to the food establishments for their opinions. Mr. Daniele offered to make the edits prior to the updated application being sent to the vendors. Mr. Narayana revised his motion, upon the suggestion of Mr. Oram, to circulate the draft vendors to get their individual and collected opinion, and to seek DPH approval of the form. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

**Mental Health Issues in our schools, information provided by Barbara Durand regarding the Wellness Committee (KG Narayana)**

Mr. Narayana explained that the Vice Principal, Paul Vieira is now in charge of the Wellness Program. Mr. Narayana stated he received documents from Mr. Vieira and added there is a State law that requires a Board of Health Member to be on the Wellness Committee. Mr. Oram explained that this is a nutrition program that goes back to when nutrition was not monitored as it is now. Mr. Narayana mentioned that he was asked if a Board of Health Member is going to be appointed to the Storm Water Committee. Mr. Oram suggested the Chairman reach out to the Town Manager on this. Mr. Narayana suggested these two positions could be an agenda topic for the next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding whether the position on the Wellness Committee is mandated.

**FinCom response for Assistant Health Agent/Part Time Food Inspector Justification (R. Etskovitz)**

Mr. Etskovitz noted that he was informed by the Chair of FinCom that it was too late for this year to look at the Assistant Health Agent position. Mr. Oram stated that he was informed a few weeks ago that the Town has approved funding for \$2,000 for on-call coverage if he is away. Mr. Oram thanked the Board for their support, adding it is a good step in the right direction and asked the Board to continue with their approach next year.

**Health Agent /Director's Report**

Budget: Mr. Oram explained that the ECS Contract through June 2018 has been signed and we may now pay the invoices, additional funds will need to be added to Contractual Services due to additional needs at the landfill. Mr. Oram noted that we are at 85% of the budget.

Landfill Routine Testing: Mr. Oram explained that we will be going out for 3 year bids for routine testing, which includes gas and groundwater testing, as well as inspections. Mr. Dassoni inquired, and Mr. Oram

responded that “routine testing” includes monthly gas testing, bi-annual groundwater testing, and annual inspections.

Naloxone Grant: Mr. Oram explained that a press release should be going out within the next couple days regarding the introduction of the naloxone grant; there are four communities involved: Ashland, Framingham, Hudson and Natick. Naloxone will be available for distribution to the families of addicted persons. The training was scheduled for tomorrow but was cancelled.

Pond View Oil Spill: Mr. Oram reported that a Waste Management truck had an oil spill of less than ten gallons of oil on Pond View Road, Mr. Oram went three separate times during the cleanup, and DEP was also there. The spill was contained with a slight bit of contamination to the property.

Sharps Containers: Mr. Oram said the sharps program had been started by Mary Mortensen three years ago; at that time we received 1,000 containers and we are finally almost out. Mr. Oram said he hopes the BAA will accept this year’s grant.

The Board discussed the number of septic system applications have come through the office.

**Consideration of Minutes (January 24, February 20, February 21, 2018)**

Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the January 24, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0-1 (Mr. Daniele abstained as he was not a Board of Health Member during that time).

Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the February 20, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0-1 (Mr. Daniele abstained as he was not a Board of Health Member during that time).

Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the February 21, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0-1 (Mr. Daniele abstained as he was not a Board of Health Member during that time).

**Discuss, future meeting dates and agenda items**

Mr. Etskovitz reviewed the items to be included in the next agenda and actions to be taken.

Mr. Etskovitz thanked Mr. Fetherston for the beautiful presentation tonight honoring Mary. The Board thanked the residents and Town officials for their show of support and attendance.

Mr. Narayana asked Mr. Oram to provide the annual food reporting for the State when it becomes available. Mr. Oram explained it is required in August by the State.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Narayana made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 3/20/2018 MEETING

(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. March 20, 2018 Meeting Agenda
2. Letter of Support to Parkland, Florida
3. Statistics re: Ashland Police Department, Emergency Use of Narcan
4. Photo of possible bus fueling at Connolly Bus Parking Lot
5. A Consumer's Guide to Food Safety
6. Legal Opinion from Attorney Lisa Mead re: MWRA Water Supply
7. Dona Walsh – Nomination Form from Mass. Dept. of Agriculture
8. FY18 Year to Date Budget Report
9. January 24, February 20 and February 21, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes
10. Audio Recording of the meeting is available