

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 2, 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, Chris Daniele, Ronald Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

Others Present:

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Janet Gamache, Resident
Ed Hart, Resident
Mark Dassoni, Resident
Brandi Kinsman, Resident
Dona Walsh, Animal Inspector
Sophie Shulman, Animal Inspector

Call to Order

Mr. Fetherston called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live on WACA-TV.

The Board voted unanimously to move Citizen's Participation to follow after the presentation of the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award.

Presentation of the 2nd Annual Mary Mortensen Public Health Award; Janet Gamache, Recipient

Mr. Fetherston welcomed all to the Presentation of the Second Annual Mary Mortensen Public Health Award. Mr. Fetherston noted that today is National Autism Awareness Day, and this was a topic that brought him and Mary Mortensen together as friends many years ago. Mr. Fetherston noted it is a privilege to honor Mary with many of her family members here tonight; Mary was a longtime Member of the Board of Health and a legend in Town, there is no better person to have an award named after.

Mr. Fetherston stated we are here tonight to recognize Janet Gamache for all she has done for the Town, including being a volunteer for the Green Up Ashland Committee for 15 years, he then read a Proclamation; the Board thanked her for her service to the Town. Mr. Oram discussed the upcoming Green Up Ashland Day scheduled for May 4th. The Board took a five minute recess.

Mr. Fetherston called the meeting back to order at 7:20 PM.

Citizen's Participation: 7:00 PM

Mark Dassoni, resident, noted that it was a great award ceremony, from the person the award was named after, to the person who received it. Mr. Dassoni wished all in Town a Happy Spring.

Nomination of Animal Inspector, Sophie Shulman

Mr. Oram noted that the Animal Inspector, Dona Walsh, was here to request the nomination of Sophie Shulman as Assistant Animal Inspector. Ms. Shulman discussed her background and experience.

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to nominate Sophie Shulman for the Inspector's job, subject to the condition that we have the authority to do so. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

Ms. Walsh discussed the role of Animal Inspectors, who work in conjunction with the Police Department and the Department of Agriculture; some of their responsibilities include enforcement of the Keeping of Animal Regulations, the quarantining of animals and conducting barn inspections. Mr. Oram noted Animal Control has been beneficial in some of the hoarding issues in Town when animals are involved.

Michael Herbert, Town Manager, and review of FY20 budget

Michael Herbert attended the Board of Health meeting to review with the Board their goals and objectives for the coming year. Mr. Herbert noted that the Board is responsible for the policy direction for the health activities in Town; when those initiatives align, the best results for the community are created. Mr. Herbert reported that the Board of Health FY2020 budget is \$171,970, including an offset of the food inspection revolving account of \$5,000. This is a 30% increase since 2013. Since that time, investments have been made in nursing services, the sharps program, and additional Landfill funds. Mr. Herbert discussed the rise of substance abuse disorders and noted that the Town has made additional investments through the creation of a Human Services Program, which includes a Town Social Worker, and a Prevention and Outreach Director of Decisions at Every Turn.

Mr. Herbert asked the Board what they would like to accomplish over the next year or two; Mr. Narayana would like to see more funds in the Food Inspection Program. Mr. Oram noted that the number of required inspections are being met and stated that his budget form for goals and objectives included a full-time Assistant Health Agent which could be partially funded by the Food Revolving Fund. Mr. Narayana believes more time needs to be devoted to the food permit application/paperwork. Mr. Herbert suggested the Board separate their goals and outcomes, look at different strategies to achieve those outcomes, and allow the staff to help establish those goals.

Mr. Daniele discussed the possibility of additional funding for the tobacco program and would like the Board to consider a TIPS-like certification for tobacco vendors.

Mr. Herbert discussed the Human Services Department; he noted that the Town Social Worker works as a liaison with the Veterans, Elderly and Schools to external agencies. Mr. Herbert noted that communication is critical and wants the Board to stay apprised of situations, he suggested Jennifer and Kristen be invited to an upcoming meeting.

The Board discussed accreditation. Mr. Oram noted that it is an important factor, but at this time there are not many cities or towns that are accredited; it would require an initial fee of \$5,000 and an evaluation of the Department would be performed by a national accreditation group.

Mr. Oram noted that the Schools are willing to work with the Board of Health on vaccination clinics; Nancy Cleary has been looking at small freezers and pricing, which is approximately \$189. Mr. Narayana offered to donate the cost of the freezer; Board Members thanked him for his offer. Mr. Herbert noted the Public Health Nurse budget for FY2020 is \$10,000; he has spoken to the administration in Framingham who indicated they are open to discussing regionalization.

Mr. Herbert explained the budget process and noted that goals and objectives are submitted at the end of November. Board discussions should begin in August as to what you want to accomplish in the coming year, not in manpower, but in outputs and outcomes from a proactive standpoint. It is important to identify gaps in services and provide data; performance metrics help ask the right questions on how to get there, we can then brainstorm on how to close the gaps. It is also important to have a consensus of

the Board and a clear message. Mr. Herbert clarified that, technically, submission of the budget is the responsibility of the Department Head, but there needs to be an example of the Board's priorities and goals from a policy standpoint. The Board thanked Mr. Herbert for his time.

Status Update on Mill Pond Rest Home

Mr. Oram reported that Mill Pond has had a change in management, Rita Hyde is now running the facility. Mr. Oram will be meeting with Ms. Hyde next week to discuss pending items with the Building Department. Mr. Oram noted they have changed pest control operators, and we will ensure a dietician is reviewing their menus; they also have some plumbing issues that still need to be resolved. Mr. Oram will make certain that we are notified of any changes in Certified Food Managers.

Overview of Pesticide Regulations / Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project

Ed Hart, former Member of the Board of Health, came to the Board of Health meeting after a request from Members for an overview of the Board's Pesticide Regulations. Mr. Hart noted he would like to be on a future agenda to discuss a By-Law he would like the Board to consider, similar to an ordinance that was passed in Warwick, Massachusetts, regarding the banning of glyphosate (RoundUp) for commercial and private use. Mr. Hart explained that glyphosate is found in over 70 foods; wheat fields are sprayed with glyphosate which dry them out and make them easier to harvest, all breads and cereals contain some levels. Mr. Hart discussed, historically, the dangers are not fully understood until years later. There are over 9,000 pending lawsuits against Monsanto; Harrell's stopped selling due to insurance/liability cost. Mr. Hart discussed the decline in pollenating insects, creating a hazard for the future and an imbalance to nature. Mr. Hart is going to work on the By-Law to add other chemicals; he would like the Board to sponsor the By-Law at the next Town Meeting. The Board discussed whether to add information to the existing Pesticide Management Regulations, or create a By-Law; Ms. Mortensen noted a Regulation could be faster to implement, Mr. Oram agreed.

Brandi Kinsman, resident, thanked Mr. Hart for the great presentation. Ms. Kinsman suggested that in addition to educating the public, the Board may want to consider a disposal program for residents to get rid of any unused containers of RoundUp in the event of a ban. Mr. Oram noted that DPW holds a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, and we could advise DPW in advance; proper disposal is crucial.

Mr. Hart discussed the domino effect caused by the use of rodenticides to exterminate mice; the vectors who eat the mice are also poisoned, the vector population is diminishing which allows the mice population to grow. Mr. Hart will put together a proposal and will contact Mr. Oram.

Central Mass Mosquito Control Program has begun doing larvae control and integrated pest management services in the region, which includes a tire removal program and consultation on beaver control; Mr. Oram noted they do a fantastic job. Mr. Narayana would like an updated map of water bodies/detention ponds; Mr. Oram will look into this.

Update on Eversource Project Public Forum

Mr. Fetherston noted that the upcoming Eversource meeting is scheduled for April 16th. Mr. Narayana noted there was a Conservation Commission meeting on the March 25th at which time they selected a peer review consultant. Mr. Narayana also noted there is a section of gas distribution piping that is exposed, he was told this is allowed and has requested further information on this. Board Members agreed to meet on April 16th at 6:30 PM in the lower level meeting room prior to the 7:00 PM Eversource meeting.

Health Agent's Report

Budget FY19/FY20 updates

Mr. Oram reported that the Finance Director has moved \$2,500 from Contracted Services to Nursing Services. The Contracted Services account will be credited from funds for Reverse 9-1-1. Mr. Oram noted he will be looking into a Reverse 9-1-1 for food establishments.

Nyanza 5 year review in process, update on meeting with EPA

Mr. Oram reported that EPA is conducting a five year review which includes interviews with staff; Mr. Oram was interviewed last week, they will also be meeting with the Nyanza Advisory Group. Mr. Fetherston noted that with his resignation, effective May 8th, the Board will need to appoint another Member to the Nyanza Advisory Committee. The Board agreed they would like to appoint Diane Mortensen to the Nyanza Advisory Committee, to which she agreed. This will be placed on the next agenda for a vote.

Future vaccination clinics

Mr. Oram reported that Nancy Cleary has been working on preliminary needs for vaccination clinics, such as a freezer. Ms. Mortensen inquired as to the next steps to receive approval from the State; Mr. Oram noted that in addition to the freezer, they need a doctor's order and there is a lot of paperwork involved. Ms. Mortensen noted that regionalization will take time and would like everything to be ready and in place for when there is a need.

Cultural Community Health and Safety Framework Training held March 25, 2019, update

Decisions at Every Turn held a conference, the topics were focused on Leadership, Integration and Communication. This training was tailored to school messaging, but can be used in other aspects as well.

Marathon preparedness and sheltering with Medical Reserve, Red Cross and Town Departments

Mr. Oram reported they are getting ready to set up shelters with the Red Cross at two of the schools, if there was a disaster there are mechanisms in place. GETS is an emergency telephone service they are now utilizing which allows the user to communicate on a separate circuit. Michael Gurnick, Medical Reserve Corps Chair, will be attending an upcoming Board of Health meeting to give an overview on the conference he attended.

Alcohol Policy Discussion update from meeting on March 20, 2019

One of the final Alcohol Policy meetings was held, different ideas were discussed, such as nips (small bottles of alcohol), and TIPS certifications.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), Region 4ab, updates from meeting on March 21, 2019

PHEP is going through its next phase of funding, how funding is distributed was discussed; it starts with a base fund amount, and is based on population. These funds typically go the MRC.

Review of Minutes for March 19, 2019

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the March 19, 2019 minutes as presented. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. After discussion regarding a Member's attendance at the meeting, Mr. Narayana restated his motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the amended motion.

Vote: 4-0-1. Motion carries (Mr. Daniele abstained as he was not present for this meeting).

Discuss Future Agenda Topics and Meeting Dates

Next meeting date-May 16th.

May meeting dates- May 7th, and May 28th.

The Board reiterated some of Mr. Herbert's comments, and agreed discussions should begin soon on the 2020 budget; Ms. Mortensen suggested that we ask Tom Curran to provide a monthly food inspection report to show the approximate number of inspections and hours. The Board agreed this discussion should be put on a future agenda.

Adjournment

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

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 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. Janet Gamache, Proclamation
2. Nomination Form, Sophie Shulman, Animal Inspector
3. Information received from Ed Hart regarding proposed Pesticide By-law
4. Central Mass Mosquito Control Project notice
5. Town of Ashland Pesticide Regulations
6. FY19 YTD Budget – General Fund / Revolving Fund
7. Draft Meeting Minutes – 3/19/2019