

Ashland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2021
Zoom/Online Meeting

Diane Mortensen, Chair
Ronald Etskovitz, Member
Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, Member

Chris Daniele, Vice Chair
Koduvayur Narayana, Member

Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:

Diane Mortensen, Chris Daniele, Ron Etskovitz, Koduvayur Narayana and Barbra Sekesogundu Simon

Others Present:

Sergeant Ed Burman, Ashland Police Department
Laura Clifford, BOH Admin. Secretary
Jennifer Ball, Assistant Town Manager
Dona Walsh, Animal Inspector
Mark Dassoni, Resident

Call Meeting to Order - 6:00 PM

Ms. Mortensen called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM and noted the meeting was being televised and recorded by WACA-TV.

Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni, resident, had read a news article about biotech and inquired if a biotech company would be coming in at 10-50 Main Street. Ms. Mortensen noted that, at this point, we do not know what companies will be going in there.

Covid-19 Update

Sergeant Burman reported that the MRC trailer was brought to Town Hall so that he could go through the trailer to assess our needs in terms of supplies. Sgt. Burman noted there is a generator, lights, masks and gloves, as well as some expired items. His goal is to have a correct inventory. Sgt. Burman discussed the regional vaccine collaborative which has been approved by the State; he has been meeting with representatives from the five other towns involved. We have secured a lease agreement with the DoubleTree Hotel. We have moved from the PrepMod system and are now training on the Color system. We are hoping for a vaccine next week. Six administrators will be hired, as well as a vaccine coordinator. Sgt. Burman noted they are ready to open once they receive vaccine. Sgt. Burman reported that a vaccine clinic was held at the Community Center, it was very successful. COVID cases are still coming in, a couple of the preschools were closed after a few cases. Sgt. Burman noted he has signed on for the Homebound Program with the State. There were approximately ten seniors, at least a few have already been contacted; he noted he and Candi Wilson are keeping track of them. Board Members recognized Mill Pond Rest Home for their proactive communications and actions during COVID.

Dona Walsh, Appointment as Animal Inspector

Ms. Mortensen noted the Board must appoint Dona Walsh annually as the Animal Control Officer/Animal Inspector. The Board thanked Ms. Walsh for all of her hard work.

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to appoint Dona Walsh, if that is the law. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion approved.

Board of Health Agent/Director Position, Update

Assistant Town Manager, Jenn Ball, noted they are working through the interview process, which has taken longer than anticipated. Ms. Ball noted that we did make an offer and got an acceptance this evening. The resume will be forwarded to the Board, and the Board can vote to affirm. The expected start date is the first Monday in May. Mr. Narayana inquired as to the number of candidates; Ms. Ball noted it has been open for a while, but would estimate around 20. They were looking for someone with municipal health experience, which is very broad, who would be able to hit the ground running. There were many great candidates.

Metrowest Tobacco Control District, Update

Ms. Mortensen reported that Jenn Ball attended a meeting in Framingham yesterday, and noted that the regional tobacco control grant has been extended another year. The regional agent, Olivia Dufour, will need to be appointed by the Board and will be responsible for doing compliance checks.

Tobacco Regulation Violation Fines, Update

Melissa Evans, the Town's tobacco agent, did go out and visit the vendors to inform them of the State fines; Mr. Daniele updated the Regulation to include the State fines, as well as other minor revisions. This will be on the next agenda as a public discussion.

Inter-Municipal Nursing Agreement, Update

Ms. Mortensen reported that the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Framingham, Hudson and Holliston is still up in the air; the grant expires June 30th. Ms. Mortensen discussed another regional grant opportunity, it is with nine other communities; Hudson is the lead agency. It is called 'Fill in the Gap' and would offer each community services, such as food inspection, education, and some vaccination services. It is a multi-year grant and would offer more benefits for the community; we should receive notification by the end of April as to whether the grant has been awarded to the region.

Consent Agenda

- FY2021 Budget
- Minutes, March 2, 2021

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion approved.

Discuss Agenda Topics for Future Meeting Dates, April 20, 2021

Ms. Mortensen noted we are anticipating receiving a waiver request from the Lanterns at Warren Woods, to waive the Lifeguard Requirement, as has been done in the past. Ms. Mortensen noted they are a private community that has a pool and has been given a waiver over the past two years. Mr. Narayana asked if we can look into the irrigation well reports which the Board had asked for in the past. Mr. Narayana inquired as to the fitness centers at the apartment complexes to make sure they are keeping up with COVID guidelines; Sgt. Burman will check on them. Other items that may be discussed at the next meeting are an ongoing housing code order, and Tobacco Regulations/Fines.

Adjournment

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

Vote: 5-0. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 4/6/2021 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Covid-19 Charts
2. YTD Budget FY2021
3. Draft Minutes, March 2, 2021
4. A recording of the meeting can be found on WACA-TV