

Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 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 Via Zoom Meeting:**

Diane Mortensen, Chris Daniele, Judi Teller, Ron Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

**Others Present:**

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director  
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary  
Sergeant Ed Burman, Ashland Police Department  
Jennifer Ball, Assistant Town Manager  
Mark Dassoni, Resident  
Rob Moolenbeek, Ashland Farmers' Market Cmte.  
Florence Seidel, Ashland Farmers' Market Cmte.  
Steven Mitchell, Ashland Farmers' Market Cmte.  
Henry Hayes, Gilbrook JKS, General Contractor  
Joe Henderson, Horsly Whitten, Civil Engineer  
Justin, Riverside Landscape, Well Driller  
Meredith Daly, BU School of Public Health

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

Ms. Mortensen called the online meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

**Citizens Participation**

Mr. Etskovitz announced that the new updated Tobacco Regulations go into effect June 1, 2020. Mr. Oram noted that he has been visiting tobacco vendors to remind them about the new Regulations.

**COVID-19 Updates**

Sergeant Burman reported that there was a small Covid outbreak at a group home/facility in Town, the residents were temporarily relocated, employees were tested and retested; they will continue ongoing testing. Waterview Lodge had 3 positive patients last week, Sgt. Burman noted that he worked with Waterview Lodge and was able to get them moved up on the National Guard testing list. Sgt. Burman noted that the communication from Waterview Lodge has been excellent. Ms. Mortensen also commended Mill Pond on their frequent communications and updates, Sgt. Burman agreed and noted that they were tested by the National Guard and have had zero cases. Residence at Valley Farms have had residents all come out of isolation, three are still out, but remain in rehab.

Sgt. Burman noted that we have been very aggressive getting out the reopening information to the businesses and Houses of Worship, Beth Reynolds sent out an email for each type of facility with guidelines on reopening.

Sgt. Burman noted that we have had zero new cases since yesterday, 135 cases have been cleared, with a total of 208 cases.

Sgt. Burman noted that Mr. Oram has created a spreadsheet which includes every food establishment and logs each inspection. Mr. Narayana inquired as to the group homes in Town, Sgt. Burman noted that the Fire Chief does a check-in with all group home facilities every Thursday.

Ms. Teller inquired if the spreadsheet that Mr. Oram utilizes for inspections could be made available online, as a possible grading system. Ms. Mortensen noted this can be a future agenda topic.

Mr. Oram discussed the DPH conferences he has attended regarding reopening and the State guidelines and directives, which the State is still working on. The State is watching for any significant increase in cases, if there are none, then they will continue on to the next Phase. Mr. Oram noted that the camps are anxious to know what is going to happen, they were informed that we will disseminate that information as soon as it becomes available. Mr. Etskovitz inquired as to how the reopening will be monitored, Sgt. Burman noted that the reopening checklist for churches and others is very specific and they know what is expected.

Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Ball discussed a call with the State on rolling out reopening guidelines, she noted that Police are not the first line of enforcement; information should be reported to the Board of Health and it will be incumbent upon Mark and Ed to educate, beginning with a warning then a non-criminal fine. All businesses are required to have a safety plan on hand; if there is a complaint they can be asked to see their Safety Plan which must be kept on file.

#### **Community Garden - 2020 Season and procedures in place for COVID-19**

Mr. Oram noted that the Community Gardens have asked the Board of Health to review their plan during Covid-19. Florence Seidel discussed the color-coded map that shows the potential gardeners schedules, no more than 15 people at one time, and gardeners will be required to wear masks, gloves and bring hand sanitizer. Ms. Seidel noted that gardeners will not be able to share tools, the shed will be locked.

**Motion:** Mr. Daniele made a motion to approve the plan presented tonight by the Ashland Community Garden. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

**Vote:** 5-0. Motion approved.

#### **Farmers Market - 2020 Season and procedures in place for COVID-19**

Steve Mitchell referenced the documents sent to the Board, including Vendor Rules for the Farmers' Market 2020 Season. Mr. Mitchell reviewed the PowerPoint document and noted this information is based on guidance from the Department of Public Health and the Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources. Rob Moolenbeek explained the one-way lineup of the vendors, and explained the passing and exit lanes. Social distancing spacing lines will be marked. Mr. Mitchell said there will be handwashing stations and noted that he is working with DPW regarding parking. Board Members complimented the essence of the Ashland Farmers' Market. The use of the public restrooms was discussed.

**Motion:** Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the Farmers' Market plan as submitted. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion.

**Vote:** 4-0-1. Ms. Teller abstained due to being a sponsor of the Farmers' Market. Motion approved.

#### **Irrigation well request, Robert Hill Way**

Joe Henderson, Engineer, explained that he is here to request that the Board consider the installation of an irrigation well at Robert Hill Way Senior Apartments. Mr. Henderson described the location of the well on the plan, which is outside a 100-foot buffer to the southwest portion of the property. Much of the roadway and utilities are built, the nearest property line is 215 feet away. Mr. Oram noted under our Well Regulations, 312.6d, they are required to come to the Board for permission for an irrigation well, and must explain how it will not affect any other well resources in the area. Mr. Richardson has reviewed the area Title 5 maps and noted he did not see any public water supply wells near this area. The system is designed to run at 20 gallons per minute. Mr. Oram noted this will be a deep well, into the ledge. Ms. Mortensen noted that if the Board approves this well, it would need to be contingent with approval from Conservation and Zoning. Mr. Oram noted that he would like a letter prior to

issuance of a well permit from the engineer noting that it is not affecting other resources, and the plan to have a notation added that it is in compliance with all state and local requirements.

**Motion:** Mr. Daniele made a motion to approve the plan contingent upon receipt of the letter from Mr. Henderson and approval by all other relevant Town agencies and/or Boards. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. Mr. Henry will get letters from Conservation and Zoning Board.

**Vote:** 5-0. Motion approved.

Mr. Narayana inquired as to the well test results for Lanterns and Cirrus apartments, Mr. Oram noted that it was just Cirrus apartments which requires the ongoing testing. Mr. Oram noted he will check his records.

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

#### **Budget Update**

Mr. Oram noted the budget is in good shape, the revolving fund hasn't been utilized as it normally would be due to Covid-19. Salary line item is where it should be at 90%.

### **Meredith Daly, Boston University School of Public Health Student, Intern**

Meredith Daly attended the Board of Health meeting to discuss a possible internship with Mr. Oram and the Board of Health Department. Mr. Oram noted that due to Covid-19 this is not a typical year, and Ms. Daly recognizes that work may need to be done remotely. Mr. Oram noted she is hoping to focus her internship on Nyanza, as well as the pandemic. Ms. Mortensen noted that the Town buildings are not open at this time, and is unsure at which Phase it will be reopened. Ms. Teller noted that there is much uncertainty with the situation and what we will be able to do. Mr. Etskovitz believes she could learn remotely, and still could gain a lot. Discussions continued as to the timing during Covid-19. Mr. Oram noted this year is unique and offered to use his vacation time if necessary. The Board agreed it is important that it could be mutually beneficial for Ms. Daly, as well as for the Town, but we must ensure safe surroundings.

Meredith explained she is a lifelong resident of Ashland, has had six years of prior work experience and was afforded a great opportunity to attend Boston University's Masters in Public Health Program. Ms. Daley noted that she has an interest in Environmental Science and researching the Nyanza site in Ashland would be an amazing opportunity. She is also interested in the law and policy part of Coronavirus and believes this work could be done remotely. Board Members agreed that since we are not allowing volunteers at this time, this be tabled for two weeks; at that time the Board will discuss how to bring on an intern safely and not take away from our first responsibility to the Town.

### **Review Minutes, April 21, 2020, April 28, 2020, May 5, 2020**

The review of minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

### **Discuss Agenda Topics for Future Meeting Dates**

The Board discussed the next meeting date and agreed to meet June 2, 2020.

Mr. Narayana would like to have the well test results from the apartments.

Ms. Teller would like to discuss EEE preparedness.

The Mary Mortensen Public Health Award presentation will need to be postponed until we are able to hold an in-person meeting.

### **Adjournment**

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

**Vote:** 5-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 5/19/2020 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Graphs of Total Cases, Combined Total Cases and Cleared
2. Layout of Ashland Community Garden
3. PPT Presentation, 2020 Farmers' Market
4. Irrigation Well Plan
5. FY20, Year-to-Date Budget
6. Draft Minutes, March 10, 2020, April 14, 2020