

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

May 22, 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  
Diane Mortensen, Member*

**Members Present:**

Ronald Etskovitz, Jon Fetherston, Chris Daniele and Diane Mortensen

**Members Absent:**

Koduvayur Narayana

**Others Present:**

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director  
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary  
Thomas Curran, Food Inspector  
Mark Dassoni, resident  
George Youssef, Ashland Auto Service  
Raymond Youssef, Ashland Auto Service

**Call to Order**

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WACA-tv. Mr. Etskovitz congratulated and welcomed new Board Member Diane Mortensen and Chris Daniele, who was re-elected, and thanked them for their service in volunteering. Mr. Etskovitz introduced Tom Curran, our part-time Food Inspector. Mr. Etskovitz made a motion, in light of the absence of one of our Members, to table Reorganization of the Board. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

**Citizen's Participation**

Mark Dassoni congratulated the newly elected Members of the Board, Diane Mortensen and Chris Daniele.

**Updates on food program for Food Code consideration, vendor review for software and food application**

Mr. Oram explained that he recently attended a conference which addressed cities and towns adopting the 2013 Food Code, which would be a leap from the current 1999 Food Code. Mr. Curran discussed some of the changes in the 2013 version, including the handling of romaine lettuce and cut produce, which recently was the source of an e-coli outbreak, adding that the 2013 Food Code more clearly defines areas of concern in preventing foodborne illness. Mr. Oram stated that he would like to see the Board of Health work towards adopting the 2013 Food Code, adding that it is important to keep up with the fast-changing industry standards. Mr. Daniele noted it is surprising that in 2018 we are looking to adopt a 2013 version, adding it would be helpful to have a redlined version to show what has been changed. Mr. Curran noted that the current curriculum that Serve-Safe programs use to certify food managers is based on the 2013 Food Codes, so many are already up to par. Mr. Oram noted that since this involves a regulation change, he would like to involve the vendors by holding a public discussion.

Mr. Oram noted that he and Mr. Curran are actively looking to update the food program software to one that is in line with the 2013 Food Code.

Mr. Fetherston suggested making a copy of the 2013 Food Code available to all of the vendors so they can vet and review prior to a public discussion. Mr. Etskovitz inquired as to the procedure if a vendor may need to upgrade equipment and any financial impact; Mr. Oram believes that most vendors are up-to-date with the 2013 Code when it comes to equipment. Ms. Mortensen noted that vendors will have time to transition to the new regulations, historically January 1<sup>st</sup> has been the start date for new regulations. Mr. Oram discussed the need for additional training on food safety during an extended power outage. Mr. Oram discussed potentially requiring establishments to have at least one Certified Food Manager on site during open hours, and it may be good to have vendors here for that discussion as well. Mr. Fetherston made a motion that we instruct staff to send this (2013 Food Code) out electronically to our retail food establishments with the caveat that there will be two highly recommended meetings. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. Ms. Mortensen suggested sending the email out multiple times and that it include the date of September 18, 2018 so that vendors can be aware of the date in advance. Mr. Fetherston added this to his motion. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

### **Tobacco Sales Permit Request – George Youssef, Ashland Auto Service: 7:30 PM**

Mr. Oram explained that George Youssef, Ashland Auto Service, has been on the waiting list for a tobacco sales permit, and is the first (and only person) in line. Mr. Youssef explained that he has been the owner of Ashland Auto Service since 2004, and that he previously had a convenience store in the gas station but during a period of transition he did not renew, not realizing that he was forfeiting his tobacco permit. Mr. Youssef stated that during the time he held a permit, he never sold to minors. Mr. Youssef explained that they currently sell soda and snacks, Mr. Etskovitz mentioned that the store has been renovated and looks great. Mr. Oram stated that Tom Curran recently conducted a passing food inspection of the facility. Mr. Youssef explained that working there will be he and his brother Raymond and one other employee; all have read and understand the current Tobacco Sales Regulations and penalties. Mr. Fetherston made a motion that the Board give their recommendation to Mr. Oram to issue a Tobacco Sales Permit to Ashland Auto Service (starting July 1, 2018). Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

### **School Wellness Committee Meeting, May 21, 2018, update, KG Narayana**

Mr. Daniele explained that he was asked to take Mr. Narayana's place at the School Wellness Committee Meeting but he was not able to attend; therefore there was no representation at this meeting.

### **Health Agent /Director's Report**

#### **Budget update**

Mr. Oram stated that the FY18 budget is in good order and that there will be a slight change to Contracted Services line. Mr. Oram noted bids will be opening up tomorrow for a new three year Landfill contract and hopes the cost will remain the same; the cost could go down if the new vents have been effective and the State mandates only quarterly testing, rather than monthly testing. Mr. Etskovitz inquired as to the revolving tobacco budget; Mr. Oram noted that we have been receiving funds through a Metrowest Health Foundation Grant which has paid for the services of our Tobacco Compliance Officer, we have funds available which can be used to hold a tobacco training for tobacco vendors. Other training sessions could also be held, possibly to discuss the dangers of vaping and juuling with parents.

#### **Howe Street Landfill/Solar Project update**

Mr. Oram has spoken with the Planning Director, Sheila Page, regarding the status of the connection for the solar panels to the grid and putting up the berm. Sheila is working with management on these to ensure that the berm is installed within the same timeframe.

#### **Nyanza proposed solar project update**

Mr. Oram stated there is a proposal from Mr. Gayner to contract with a company to put solar panels on top of the Nyanza cap, EPA approves this type of use; however, some obligations to the Town need to be met before this project can advance.

### **Updates on food program for Food Code consideration, vendor review for software and food application**

Mr. Oram is reviewing various vendors for software, he would like to go with a vendor that has multiple device capability.

### **Intern for Summer of 2018, Rory Ostrow**

This will be our sixth summer with an intern, which Mr. Oram stated he enjoys. Rory Ostrow is working towards his Masters in Public Health degree and would like to focus on the topic of substance abuse and the opioid crisis.

### **Bagel Table, 21 Main Street, status of food permit**

Mr. Oram explained that he has stopped in to the Bagel Table to see where they are at, it is progressing and will probably be ready in the next month or two.

### **Narcan Program and outreach efforts**

Mr. Oram is working with the Public Health Nurse, Nancy Cleary, to reach out to residents to inform them that Narcan is available for distribution to Ashland residents free of charge; the fliers have been distributed to the Police, Fire and Community Center. Mr. Oram explained how the program works and how the narcan is distributed. Mr. Fetherston suggested placing the flier next to the sharps containers, and the flier be posted at pharmacies, Stone Park and Gryncel Park; Ms. Mortensen inquired, and Mr. Oram responded, that it could also be available to Ashland businesses. Board Members discussed scheduling an outreach at the High School or Middle School to speak to students on the opioid crisis, vaping and juuling.

### **Landfill request for proposal status**

Mr. Oram explained that there have been three bids received so far, it will be interesting to see what is being offered to us.

### **Beaver control permit for flooding off Oregon Road near Oregon Club**

Mr. Oram noted that he had received an Emergency Beaver Permit for the land at the north side of Oregon Road, water is building up again. Beavers are attracted to that area. A permit was issued to the trapper, Malcolm Speicher. They are going to put wire fencing on each side of the culvert to prevent the beavers from getting in there.

### **Mass Environmental Health Association, updates from training on trends in spas-float tanks and cryogenic therapy, pesticide control with dry ice, and trends for food protection**

Mr. Oram discussed an interesting conference he attended, he spoke about new trends such as float tanks and cryogenic therapy and how to oversee these from a public health perspective. He will look at Dedham's regulations for cryogenic therapy, and for now they would follow the National Sanitation Foundation's recommendations for float tanks. Mr. Oram discussed a new form of pest control using dry ice, noting that it is more humane than other ways.

### **Town Water Quality report for 2017**

Board Members noted they have all received a copy of the 2017 Town Water Quality Report.

### **Public Health Emergency Preparedness funds and proposed expenditures**

Mr. Oram reported that he is working with Michael Gurnick to determine what equipment may be needed. He will be ordering a new vaccine refrigerator as well as piston jacks for the Medical Reserve Corps trailer and other medical supplies. Mr. Gurnick is working with Kitty Mahoney in Framingham to possibly work together, Mr. Oram said he will invite him to an upcoming meeting.

### **Consideration of Meeting Minutes, 5/22/2018**

Ms. Mortensen noted that since she was not present at the 5/22/2018 meeting and there are three Members able to vote on the minutes, she will abstain from voting. Mr. Fetherston made a motion to accept the minutes

as presented. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0-1 (Ms. Mortensen abstained).

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

Mr. Etskovitz noted that he would like to accommodate CeCe Doucette's request to present at an upcoming Board of Health meeting and suggested she be on the next agenda, Board Members agreed. Ms. Mortensen noted the Board may want to consider utilizing a consent agenda in the future, as a way to save time by voting on multiple items with one vote. Mr. Fetherston also suggested each Member taking on a specific project and updating the Board during the meeting. Mr. Fetherston noted that in addition to Board reorganization at the next meeting, the Board could also have a quick review of the Policies and Procedures. Ms. Mortensen suggested possibly having a retreat once or twice a year.

Mr. Dassoni commented that tonight's meeting shows how the Board can work together in a positive way.

Mr. Daniele thanked the voters of Ashland who voted for him and those who didn't. Mr. Daniele mentioned that he will have some date conflicts that he made prior to his decision to run for the Board of Health position. The Board Members agreed to coordinate meeting dates the best that we can. Mr. Etskovitz asked Board Members to send any other agenda items they would like to discuss.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Fetherston made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 5/22/2018 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. May 22, 2018 Meeting Agenda
2. Letter / Request to Board re: Tobacco Permit from George Youssaf
3. FY18 YTD Budget
4. 2013 (Draft) Food Code distributed by Tom Curran
5. Narcan Distribution Program – Flier
6. Draft Minutes, April 17, 2018