

Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 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  
Michael Herbert, Town Manager  
Jennifer Ball, Assistant Town Manager  
Stephanie Donovan, Cirrus Apartments  
Mark Dasoni Resident  
Joel Arbeitman, Resident

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

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

**Citizens Participation**

None.

**COVID-19 Updates**

Sergeant Ed Burman discussed the most recent COVID statistics, noting that in Ashland there has been a total of 241 cases, 191 of those cases have been cleared. Sgt. Burman also noted that he and Nancy Cleary were able to clear an additional 16 of the 22 at Waterview Lodge. Sgt. Burman is working closely with the Administrator of Waterview Lodge who has noted that the remaining patients have mild symptoms and are being isolated. A reporting problem was uncovered at the CVS rapid test site, and there was no way to follow up with positive patients who may have given erroneous address information. We have had 3 consecutive days of no cases, but we may see a rise in cases as we begin to reopen.

Jennifer Ball discussed a recent meeting with the Recreation Dept. regarding their children's summer program. Ms. Ball noted that the program usually has between 130-160 children for an 8-week program. Based on the newly released Phase 2 guidelines, Ms. Ball noted that we are hoping to have a 6-week reduced program, for 60 children. The children will be split into two "villages" with 30 children each; each village will be split into pods of 10 children. Groups will be separated using both the upper and lower fields, as well as the upstairs and downstairs of the Community Center. Two health specialists certified in first aid are required to monitor children. Daily temperature checks will be taken at drop off. Ms. Ball noted that this is an all-day program. Seniors come to the Community Center by appointment only, and will not be interacting with the children at any time. There will be no field trips or bus trips. Ms. Ball noted this will be a valuable service to working parents. The Program will not include visits to

public beaches or pools, however, Recreation Director, Kelly Rund, is looking into safe ways for the children to stay cool.

Mr. Herbert noted that Town Moderator, Adam Schuster, has recessed and rescheduled Town Meeting to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Herbert reviewed the Town Meeting modifications with the Board. Mr. Herbert noted that Town Meeting will be held in the AHS gym, chairs will be separated, there will be two check-in tables where residents will be given a health assessment and temperature check, masks must be worn. Residents will be escorted to a numbered seat, that seat number will be noted on their assessment form. There will be three blocks of chairs with two aisles, doors will be open, and fans will be circulating. Spaces will be marked at 6 feet distances from the microphone. The Moderator will move the meeting along as quickly as possible. There are only five Articles which are all related to the budget. Any residents who speak will need to wipe down the microphone and circle back around. Once Articles and votes are complete, the Moderator will announce exiting by rows so there is no congregation at doors. The Town Budget was discussed. Board Members thanked Mr. Herbert and Ms. Ball for the updates.

#### **Update, Cirrus Apartments Well Test Results**

Mr. Oram explained that in 2017 the Board had reviewed a request from Cirrus Apartments for an irrigation well. Because the location is in close proximity to the Nyanza Superfund Site, the Board requested that it be tested pre-opening and post-closing. Mr. Oram noted that well test results showed high levels of iron and manganese but no volatile organic compounds. Mr. Oram noted that manganese can cause staining on concrete. Mr. Narayana noted that he would like to see a maintenance plan in writing by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Stephanie Donovan, Property Manager of Cirrus Apartments, noted that the water has not been tested since the installation of the mitigation system because they first need approval to open up irrigation; she noted that the post-season test should be able to show this. Ms. Mortensen suggested Ms. Donovan work with Mr. Oram in providing a letter to the Board regarding their plan and procedures. Mr. Narayana will send Ms. Donovan an email with items to include. Mr. Oram noted that there are no standards for irrigation wells. Mr. Narayana would like the post-mitigation test done sooner than the end of season, noting that excess manganese can affect people's health. Mr. Oram recommended that Cirrus Apartments be allowed to use Irrigation Wells #1 and #2, and within the next two weeks, test for iron and manganese to see if the results will be lower with the mitigation system. The Board requested that the test results of 2019 also be reviewed.

#### **Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Preparedness**

Mr. Oram noted that Central Mass Mosquito Control Project is on the ground and is taking action to go after the two species of mosquitoes that transmit EEE. Mr. Oram will be attending a meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> with the State and will update the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Oram discussed the helicopter spraying that occurred in sections of Town, Board Members agreed that Reverse 9-1-1 should have been utilized and that we need to do a better job of getting mosquito spraying information out to the public.

#### **Health Agent's Update:**

##### **Update, Budget FY20**

Mr. Oram noted that the present budget is in good order and that we have not learned the exact amount of the Regional Nursing program. We have looked at a better software program for food establishments, and the need for more tobacco education. Mr. Oram noted that there was discussion last year to possibly increase expenditure levels for both Food and Tobacco revolving funds. There is currently a cap of \$30,000 for the food program, and \$5,000 for tobacco. Board Members agreed to request an increase of the food revolving fund limit to \$45,000 and the tobacco fund to \$15,000.

**Motion:** Ms. Teller made a motion to request an increase to the revolving fund limits to \$45,000 for the food program and \$15,000 for the tobacco program. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion.

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

Joel Arbeitman, resident, discussed the increase in bicycle riding accidents. Mr. Arbeitman noted there are a high number of accidents between autos and bikes, as well as kids and adults not using helmets, and bike riders driving the wrong direction. Mr. Arbeitman would like to see a mechanism in place to educate the public of bike safety on the roads. Ms. Mortensen noted that there is a Roadway Traffic Safety Committee which Sgt. Burman is on that Committee; Mr. Arbeitman will reach out to Sgt. Burman and will send the Board data.

**Update, Internship, Meredith Daly, Boston University, School of Public Health**

Board Members discussed whether this is the right time to have an intern while the Town is not allowing volunteers. There was a difference of opinion as to whether this should happen now; the Board agreed to bring this back up at the next meeting in two weeks and see where things are at.

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

**Motion:** Ms. Teller made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion.

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

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

Internship, Meredith Daly  
The Mary Mortensen Public Health Award  
Tobacco Violation Hearings, menthol ban  
Medical Reserve Corps.

**Motion:** Mr. Daniele made a motion that we empower Mr. Oram to bring on Meredith Daly as our intern under the conditions that between now and our next meeting, the Town approves the acceptance of interns to work for us, and that she appear at our next meeting if she is brought on before then, and that we discuss further duties, one of the duties being to work on the Medical Reserve Corps. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion.

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

**Adjournment**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 6/2/2020 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Graphs of Total Cases, Combined Total Cases and Cleared
2. Cirrus Apartments Well Test Results Dated 4/28/2020 and 6/1/2020
3. FY20, Year-to-Date Budget
4. Draft Minutes, April 21, 2020, April 28, 2020 and May 5, 2020