

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA

*Diane Mortensen, Chair
Judith Teller, Clerk
Mark Oram, Agent/Director*

*Chris Daniele, Vice Chair
Ronald Etskovitz, Member
Koduvayur Narayana, Member*

Members Present:

Diane Mortensen, Chris Daniele, Judith Teller, Ronald Etskovitz, Koduvayur Narayana

Others Present:

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Mark Dassoni, Resident

Ms. Mortensen called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM and announced that the meeting is being recorded by WACA-TV.

Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni suggested that the Board take up summer heat and pool/water safety as a future agenda topic; Mr. Oram noted that we have updated the Board of Health website page to address hurricane safety and will include additional information for summer heat safety tips.

Ms. Mortensen reminded the public to go the Town of Ashland website to subscribe to receive notifications when updates are made to Town Departments' webpages.

Review Proposed Revisions to the 2020 Regulations Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Smoke Accessories

Mr. Daniele discussed his research which included looking at seven communities to determine whether other towns are implementing smoke accessory restrictions; he looked at Framingham, Hopkinton, Holliston, Natick, Needham, Southborough and Somerville. Of these seven towns, only Framingham addresses smoke accessories; Framingham has created separate regulations and requires a permit to sell smoke accessories.

The Board discussed options such as implementing an age restriction of 21 and over to purchase smoke accessories, additionally, whether there should be a separate permit required for retailers who are not a tobacco sales permit holder, to sell smoke accessories.

The Board noted the need to define 'Smoke Accessories' within the Tobacco Regulations. Mr. Oram will consult with Town Counsel as to the legality of banning the sale of smoke accessories and limiting sales to permitted smoke accessory shops only. Board Members discussed Adult-Only tobacco retail stores, and how to most effectively restrict access of smoke accessories to youth, which currently has no age restriction.

Mr. Daniele will create various scenarios/verbiage for the Board to review at the next meeting; the Board discussed holding a public forum in September. Mr. Etskovitz will visit some of the retailers to ascertain which businesses are currently selling smoke accessories.

FY 2021 Budget Review / Preparation

Mr. Oram noted that as discussions begin in preparation for the FY21 budget, and after a discussion with Management regarding potential regionalization with Framingham for public health nursing, Mr. Oram believes it is important to focus on acquiring an Assistant Health Agent, with 24-30 hours per week of this position being dedicated to food programs. Revenue sources to pay for the position were discussed.

Ms. Mortensen noted that it was suggested by Management that she and Mr. Oram meet with the Framingham Board of Health Chair and Director to begin a discussion on regionalization of nursing services, and potential cost.

Health Agent's Report

Budget FY20/FY21 Updates

Mr. Oram discussed the year end budget and noted that \$5,000 was removed from the Food Establishment Revolving Fund, he noted he has brought this to the attention of the Finance Director.

Mr. Oram discussed the additional funds that were transferred to the Public Health Nursing account for a total of \$13,331 for the year and explained the services that the Public Health Nursing funds provide to the Town including an overview of reported communicable diseases.

Boston Athletic Association Grant for Choke Saver/CPR Training

Ms. Mortensen noted that she recently attended a CPR and First Aid Training Class through the Ashland Fire Department, she will inquire as to the Fire Department's ability to hold a public Chokesaver Training Class.

Mr. Narayana noted that he would like to ensure that all food establishments are in compliance with the required Chokesaver Training for establishments with 25 seats or more.

Stop the Bleed Kits, Status of Distribution and Proposed Training

Mr. Oram explained that Management would like to see staff trained to use the Stop the Bleed Kits, he has reached out to a nurse who does this training; Ms. Mortensen suggested Bob Gemma may be trained to do the training. Mr. Oram discussed what is included in the Kits.

Childhood Vaccine Administration and Work Plan

The Board reviewed the Work Plan prepared by Nancy Cleary; the Board agreed it was concerning that there are 34 new registrants for school, most of whom may have not yet received vaccines. The Board discussed whether this falls on the Board of Health or the School Department; Mr. Oram noted there is an increase in demand, and the Framingham Board of Health, as of last year, will not continue to vaccinate Ashland students.

Mr. Narayana would like to see number for all vaccine requests logged in the Board of Health Office.

The Board agreed to put the purchase of the refrigerator on hold until a definitive plan is in place; Ms. Teller will reach out to the Resource personnel at the School Department for further information.

Review of Minutes, June 18, 2019

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for the June 18, 2019 meeting. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion approved.

Discuss Future Agenda Topics for August 13, 2019 and Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting date: August 13, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

- Hemp and CBD Policy received from Town Counsel
- Review of Judi Teller’s communication with School personnel regarding student vaccinations
- Review of Warren School Report, Superintendent Jim Adams will attend
- FY21 Budget Preparation, invite Lisa Uglialoro, HR Director
- Tobacco Regulations

Mr. Narayana noted that the Conservation Commission will be meeting on August 12th to discuss the Eversource Gas Pipe Transmission Line.

Mr. Narayana noted he sent a copy of the Analytical Report pertaining to soil and water samples at Legacy Farms to the Board Members.

The Board agreed that if any new information arises following Ms. Teller’s discussion with the School Nurse’s office, the Board could potentially meet prior to August 13th.

Adjournment

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

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 7/16/2019 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Ashland Board of Health Regulations Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Smoke Accessories (Effective 1/1/2020)
2. YTD Budget Report, FY2019
3. Childhood Vaccine Administration and Work Plan
4. Draft Meeting Minutes – 6/18/2019
5. A video recording of the meeting is available at wacatv.com