

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

*Jon Fetherston, Chairman
Diane Mortensen, Vice Chairman
Mark Oram, Agent/Director*

*Chris Daniele, Clerk
Ronald Etskovitz, Member
Koduvayur Narayana, Member*

Members Present:

Jon Fetherston, Diane Mortensen, Ronald Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

Members Absent:

Chris Daniele

Others Present:

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Rory Ostrow, Board of Health Intern
Saumya Sankhavaram, Decisions at Every Turn
Mark Dassoni, Resident
Matthew Marshquist, Sustainability Committee, Co-Chairman
Rob Moolenbeek, Sustainability Committee, Member
Florence Seidel, Sustainability Committee Assistant
Bruno Almeida, Mini Bites Buffet
Nick Traiforos, 130 Pond Street
Trish O'Neil, Leasing Agent

Call to Order

Mr. Fetherston called the meeting to order at 7:06. The meeting was recorded and broadcast live by WACA-TV.

Matt Marshquist, overview of ban on plastic bags

Matthew Marshquist explained that it has been a long road and the Sustainability Committee is glad to finally be at this point, the ban on plastic bags will be in effect on July 26, 2018. Ashland is the 56th town in the State to adopt this bylaw, and that number is now at 81. Ashland is a green community and we should feel proud of this. Mr. Marshquist noted that through the BAA Grant and the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, they were able to purchase 1,700 reusable bags, these bags will be distributed free of charge to residents. There are bags that are exempt, such as produce bags and dry cleaning bags. Plastic recyclable, biodegradable bags are not exempt. Mr. Moolenbeek emphasized that they would really like to see people using reusable bags as opposed to paper bags, which he stated are not a great option. Ms. Mortensen suggested the Sustainability Committee may want to focus on educating smaller establishments, as those are the establishments people may not remember to bring a reusable bag. Mr. Oram has not yet heard what the rules will be for enforcement. The Board agreed to work with the Sustainability Committee and will communicate any issues.

Juuling / Vaping Educational Seminar to be held in the fall

The Board agreed it was important to include Decisions at Every Turn (DAET) in this discussion and planned seminar. Mr. Oram introduced Saumya Sankhavaram, DAET Coordinator, who agreed that vaping has become a hot topic in the schools, adding there has been a slight increase in the rate of use. Ms. Sankhavaram

noted that it is important to get the information out early to students. The Board discussed the appearance of Juul devices which can be deceiving, and can look like a flash drive or a screwdriver. The Board discussed having multiple dates for the seminar, one with Middle School students, one with High School students, possible locations and dates were also discussed. Ms. Sankhavaram noted that she would speak with the other DAET Members regarding DAET speaking at the seminar. Mr. Oram suggested Dr. Hartman or Dr. Reap may also be able to assist as speakers. The Board thanked Ms. Sankhavaram for all that Decisions at Every Turns does for the community.

Naloxone (Narcan) Distribution Program – Update

Mr. Oram explained that the Narcan Distribution Program runs amongst four communities, so far five kits have been distributed. Ms. Mortensen suggested that the Town Social Services Director, Jennifer Wuelfing, would be able to assist in the area of aftercare and outreach, Mr. Oram agreed and noted she has been trained to be a trainer.

Rory Ostrow – Presentation to Board re: Project Idea / Town Survey

Rory Ostrow, the Board of Health intern, explained that he is in a Master's Program at Tufts University, focusing on epidemiology. It was seeing the effects of the opioid epidemic in his hometown that drew him to this field. When he learned about the Narcan Distribution Program and that only five kits have been distributed in Ashland, he decided he would look deeper at this. He also reviewed the Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey. He then developed a survey regarding opioid abuse and narcan; he hopes that by getting this survey out to residents through the Ashland Facebook page, the information he receives will assist in compiling data to determine the reason more kits have not been distributed, while at the same time he will be getting this information out to the public. Mr. Ostrow explained that overall Ashland is doing well, but there were two deaths from opioid overdose in both 2016 and 2017, and one death is too many. Mr. Ostrow reviewed the questions on the survey with the Board. Mr. Oram noted that if the Board approves allowing the survey to go onto the Ashland Facebook page he would then ask permission from the Town Manager. Mr. Fetherston made a motion that we support encouraging the Town Information Officer to allow this to go up on Facebook. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. Mr. Ostrow noted his final presentation will be on August 15th at the State Labs in Jamaica Plain, adding that Mark has been a wonderful mentor to him during his time here.

Mini Bites Buffet, Request for Grease Trap Waiver

Bruno Almeida explained that he is here to request a waiver from the requirement of an external grease trap, adding that he currently owns another location in Everett and is hoping to expand to Ashland. Mr. Almeida stated that he manufactures all the food in Everett; the food he manufactures is Brazilian finger foods. The Ashland location would have up to six fryolators and the food would be served in paper boxes. The oil is drained and picked up by a company. The only thing that would be washed in the triple bay sink is the fryolator baskets. Nick Traiforos, owner of the building, stated he does not want to dig up the sidewalk to install an external grease trap. Mr. Oram stated that neither he, nor the Plumbing Inspector or DPW Superintendent, support a waiver due to the number of fryolators and the grease that will accumulate on the floors and vents. Mr. Oram explained that an external grease trap can solidify the grease. Mr. Almeida stated that the Everett location, where the food is manufactured and cooked, does not produce excessive grease and believes the Ashland location would create even less grease. The possibility of tapping into the exterior grease trap owned by Mr. Traiforos (Dairy Queen) was discussed. Mr. Oram noted an engineer could determine if this would be a possibility; Mr. Traiforos said he has two fryolators and a 50 pound grease trap. Mr. Fetherston inquired if Mr. Almeida could have additional interior grease traps. Mr. Almeida said he would speak to the Plumbing Inspector. Mr. Fetherston made a motion that we take no action until further review. Ms. Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. Ms. Mortensen suggested that Mr. Almeida review the records from his grease trap system in Everett with the DPW and the Plumbing Inspector.

Discuss Class-Action Litigation of Opioid Manufacturers

Mr. Fetherston stated that he attended a Board of Selectmen meeting in which the Town Manager noted that the Town may have an opportunity to be a litigant in a Class Action Lawsuit, there would be an investment

to the Town in the cost of a Special Counsel but a potential for payback for services regarding police / emergency responders. It would be a long process. The Board agreed that they would support the Town Management in their decision to move forward. Mr. Narayana made a motion to send a letter of support from the Board of Health to the Town Manager. Ms. Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. Mr. Fetherston said he will draft a letter.

Discuss Board Goals / Projects

Mr. Fetherston distributed the document he created which was a list of Board Goals and Projects. The Board discussed the goals and projects; Mr. Fetherston will revise the list, add a tour of Nyanza; EPA and DPH updates; and a November deadline for Finance Committee. Ms. Mortensen will review the Regulations to see which may need to be updated.

Mr. Fetherston made a motion to appoint Ron Etskovitz as the Wi-Fi working group. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

The Board discussed having an additional tobacco training in November. Mr. Oram is hoping to bring back the cable show ‘Public Health is Everybody’s Business’ and would like to have Members come on the show to discuss these topics.

Discuss Creation of Individual Town Email Addresses for Board Members

Ms. Mortensen had suggested this topic and thought it would a good idea for Board Members to have individual Town email addresses, which would make things easier for keeping Board of Health emails separate from personal emails. Mr. Narayana expressed concern with having two email accounts to log into but ultimately Board Members agreed it is a great idea. Ms. Mortensen made a motion to create individual email addresses for the Board of Health Members. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

KG Narayana, Board of Health Policies & Procedures, written proposals

The Board agreed that since not all five Members were present, to place this agenda topic on hold. Ms. Mortensen inquired as to why the Role of the Health Agent is crossed out, adding that she wants it to remain in the document. Mr. Narayana noted the definition can be added as an Appendix. The Board Members discussed potential meeting dates to review the Policies and Procedures as a workshop. The Board agreed to meet on August 13th at 6:00 p.m. but will confirm Member Chris Daniele’s availability before it is posted.

Mark Dassoni inquired if he could have the opportunity to speak since he was not present during Citizen’s Participation. Mr. Dassoni said he has read the edits to the Policies and Procedures and had some questions which he was hoping to discuss with the Board.

Health Agent Director’s Report

Budget, FY 18 and FY 19

Mr. Oram noted there will be some funds that will need to be encumbered due to the Landfill costs and there has been issues with the timing of the billing.

Department of Environmental Protection Investigation at Sheffield, Byron, Tudor and Windsor

Mr. Oram noted that, as discussed last meeting, when DEP was drilling they hit an unmarked water line, he has spoken with Ken Sanderson of DEP, they are targeting mid-August to come back. Mr. Oram believes they will find the source of the oil.

Update on food inspection program software vendor

Mr. Oram stated that food inspection software vendors have submitted the costs of their software programs, but we may stay with the current program through the end of the year. Mr. Narayana noted that the arrival and departure time of an inspection is a quantitative measure that could be helpful. Ms. Mortensen noted that Members may find it of interest to see a PowerPoint or a link to the different vendors’ presentations, and also added it is important to ensure that the collected data is saved when entering into a new contract.

Beach status at Ashland State Park

Mr. Oram updated the Board on the recent closing at Ashland State Park; he explained the geometric measure guidelines that are followed. Mr. Oram noted that Warren Conference Center Beach was also closed, but had reopened the following day.

Lanterns at Warren Woods, status on lifeguard

Mr. Oram reported that the Lanterns at Warren Woods still has a lifeguard on duty and the pool is closed a couple days per week. Lanterns' Management will inform him when they will be without a lifeguard.

Vacation Coverage

Mr. Oram noted that the contact information for the on-call Health Agents was provided to the Board, as well as to management and police and fire, they will provide coverage during his vacation.

Meeting Minutes: May 1, 2018 (Revised, previously approved 5/22/2018) and June 26, 2018

May 1, 2018 Minutes – Attorney Kate Feodoroff had asked the Board to revise these minutes to reflect that no vote was taken by Judith Margulies per her Open Meeting Law Complaint filed 5/22/2018. Mr. Etskovitz made a motion to approve the minutes as revised. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 (D. Mortensen abstained as she was not present / a Member of the Board at that time).

June 26, 2018 Minutes – Mr. Oram noted that he made some minor edits to the minutes. Mr. Narayana noted that the word “moved” should be changed to “suggested”. Ms. Mortensen made a motion to approve the June 26, 2018 meeting minutes with corrections as noted. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Discuss future meeting dates and agenda items for August and September

The Board discussed future meeting dates: August 13 - Work Group Meeting on Policies and Procedures; August 21 – Regular meeting; and September 25 is the Public Discussion on the Food Code.

Adjournment

Ms. Mortensen made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 7/17/2018 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. July 17, 2018 Meeting Agenda
2. Plastic Bag Ban – Bylaw
3. Naloxone Distribution Program – Poster
4. Rory Ostrow, Intern – Proposed Town Survey
5. Mini Bites Buffet – Waiver Request to Board for Exterior Grease Trap, Photos, Application
6. KG Narayana Proposed Edits to Board Policies and Procedures
7. Board Goals and Projects created by J. Fetherston
8. FY19 Budget
9. Beach Report, dated 7/6/2018
10. Draft Minutes, May 1, 2018 and June 26, 2018