

Ashland Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2020  
Zoom/Online Meeting

*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, Ron Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

**Members Absent:**

Judi Teller

**Others Present:**

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director  
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary  
Sergeant Ed Burman, Ashland Police Department  
Jennifer Ball, Assistant Town Manager  
Tom Curran, Food Inspector  
Amy Turncliff, DAET, Coalition Chair  
Kristin French, DAET, Prevention Outreach Director  
Betsy Emberly, Decisions at Every Turn  
Tim Deschamps, Central Mass Mosquito  
Stephanie Donahue, Property Mgr., Cirrus Apartments  
Tristan Bolden, Cirrus Apartments

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

Ms. Mortensen called the meeting to order at 6:03.

**Citizen's Participation**

None.

**Presentation of the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award to Ashland's Decisions at Every Turn**

Kristen French, Decisions at Every Turn (DAET) Outreach Director, announced that they have hired a new coordinator, Talia Seavey, an Ashland resident with her Masters in Health Education, they are excited for what she will bring to the Community.

Mr. Daniele read the Proclamation of the Board of Health, to the recipient of the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award, Decisions at Every Turn. The Board of Health thanked and congratulated the leaders for their ongoing devotion to the community. The plaque was held up and it will be displayed on the Second Floor hallway of Town Hall. Ms. Mortensen thanked the Coalition leaders for all of their hard work and dedication on behalf of the Mortensen family.

Ms. French thanked the Board of Health for their support over the many years; she thanked the Board for the honor of receiving the Award and said it is a privilege to be recognized. Ms. French thanked the many volunteers and all of the residents, and noted the Coalition is fortunate that their vision for the Ashland youth to thrive is shared by so many.

Amy Turncliff, DAET Coalition Chair, thanked the Board for the honor and noted her appreciation for the work of Mary Mortensen for many years of dedication to the prevention of youth substance

abuse and her leadership when it came to tobacco control regulations. Ms. Turncliff noted the Coalition has been in existence for almost 20 years, she has been a part for 10 years. She thanked the past leaders including Claudia Rose, Kathy Bach and Liz Burns and the many volunteers and collaborators for keeping the Coalition alive.

Betsey Emberly said it has been her honor to be a part of the Coalition.

Mr. Narayana thanked Ms. Mortensen and Mr. Etskovitz for being the Board liaisons, and attending the DAET meetings.

### **Covid-19, Update**

Sergeant Burman reviewed the charts and statistics regarding Covid-19 with the Board, he noted that probable cases are going up due to many people having serum testing for anti-bodies; labs and physicians do not always order the PCR test at the same time, these cases must be traced.

Use of sports fields is increasing, Sgt. Burman noted that he has encountered some issues along the way, they have been resolved as they come up. Sgt. Burman has sent out emails with reminder instructions regarding field use.

Ms. Mortensen inquired as to the status of the restaurants, and inquired if all Covid inspections have been conducted. Mr. Oram noted that they received five calls regarding businesses not wearing facial coverings. Mr. Oram went out to those locations (4 were retail stores). Mr. Oram noted there is a push out there to enforce the face coverings. Ms. Mortensen inquired as to where the data regarding the Covid inspections is being stored, and which food program is being used for the inspections. Mr. Oram said he is using the spreadsheet for Covid inspections, and that the new food program is for restaurants with outdoor seating, and is not set up for regular businesses. Ms. Ball asked that a shared Google sheet to log incoming calls and complaints regarding mask or Covid concerns and the action taken. Ms. Mortensen said this could be combined with the Covid Hotline complaints. Sgt. Burman will create the sheet tomorrow.

Mr. Curran noted that the Division of Labor Standards may also be brought in for violations of non-compliance. Sgt. Burman noted that they have been called in regards to a business not following protocols and were very responsive.

Mr. Narayana noted that there will be an event on August 15<sup>th</sup> at which time the Flag of India will be raised to commemorate the anniversary of India's independence.

### **EEE Preparedness / West Nile Virus, Tim Deschamps, Central Mass Mosquito Control Project**

Tim Deschamps, Director of Central Mass Mosquito (CMMCP), discussed the significant EEE activity in the Metrowest region, including in Ashland. The Mosquito District met over the winter and came up with a plan to mitigate initial risk of two species of mosquitoes implicated in the transmission of EEE. Last year, 21 of their communities were in High or Critical risk. Earlier this year, Field Staff and personnel went out to sites and determined if they are appropriate for aerial applications. The aerial application was performed on June 1st in Ashland in the cattail marshes. 207 acres were sprayed with a 30-day organic product, Natural R. The traps will help determine how much control occurred, they hope to see suppression of these mosquito species throughout the summer. West Nile Virus is another disease of concern and is carried by Culex mosquitoes which tend to develop in storm drains. Ashland's storm drains were treated today. CMMCP service includes ongoing surveillance in a dozen locations that are being sampled, they are sent in on a weekly basis. To date, they have not identified any virus activity in the Town of Ashland. Mr. Deschamps noted they received 265 service requests from residents.

Mr. Deschamps discussed the challenges with their educational services which is typically very active in the Spring at schools and health fairs. There is literature available at the library and in Town Hall. Mr. Oram noted that in the event of any virus activity, we are notified through the Alert System at which time we would quickly get notification out to the residents. Ms. Mortensen inquired about any future aerial spraying; Mr. Deschamps noted that there will be as much advance notice given as possible prior to aerial spraying. Ms. Ball noted that we must remind various outlets and the

Communications team where to find the information, to continue to keep the word getting out. Mr. Deschamps will forward links to CSA's to put on our websites.

Mr. Daniele noted that the Board should be proactive to have the message out now that restaurants will be required to shut down outdoor dining should the mosquito virus risk require. Ms. Mortensen would like a mosquito preparedness protocol list put together, the Board agreed. Mr. Etskovitz inquired and Mr. Deschamps responded that there are good mosquito repellent products on the market for home use, but directions must be carefully followed. The Board thanked Mr. Deschamps for explaining their work.

#### **Annual Nomination of Dona Walsh, Animal Control Officer, April 2020-March 2021**

**Motion:** Mr. Narayana made a motion, assuming we have the powers to do so, to nominate Dona Walsh, that she be appointed as presented. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion.

**Vote:** 4-0. Motion approved.

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

##### **Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) for Regional Nursing, status of regionalization of nursing services**

Mr. Oram reported that the IMA is still under review by the group of four communities; questions have been posed as to how they will fairly distribute services based on contributions. Also a concern was how many directors will the regional nurse have; details still need to be worked out. What needs to be determined is, what additional programs will be offered, will there be availability of promotional services. They have not hired anyone at this present time. Mr. Oram noted hopefully they will get moving along; we will have to deduct the cost of our regional nurse from the contract.

The Board inquired as to the numbers of Ashland residents serviced by the Framingham clinic, and what services they received. This should be sent as a monthly report. The Board discussed the number of applicants for the regional nurse position. Mr. Daniele noted that the salary is not competitive. The Board discussed whether it will require additional funding contributions from each community. This item will stay on the agenda.

##### **Food Program Updates**

Mr. Oram discussed wanting the food program plan to be more efficient with the use of the new food program, noted that this will be a good tool to use. Mr. Oram discussed a second person coming in to look at some of the low priority inspections, the high priority can be cumbersome and time consuming, up to four hours for one large restaurant or supermarket. Ms. Mortensen wants to make sure we are maximizing the number of hours Mr. Curran can offer, adding that the Board would welcome any additional hours he can offer. Mr. Curran noted that he is currently working to catch up with the first round of inspections, due to the unique circumstances beginning in March. He is working collaboratively with Mark and Ed, and notes on the food inspection report if there are Covid issues. The final report of the Food Code Pro will be easier to decipher the violation and corrective action. Mr. Curran noted he is concentrating on the high risk supermarkets adding that the new food program will be more effective; he is not sure if it will make a difference in the amount of time spent. They are going to have a second training with Food Code Pro company. Mr. Narayana inquired as to the start and end time of the inspection, if this has been added. Ms. Mortensen hopes that when everyone is using the same system it will make things more efficient, and all information will be in one location. Mr. Oram noted that we want to ensure there is enough staffing, the Board agreed this should be put on to the next agenda. Mr. Oram noted there is a plan that he will share which can be also be part of the next agenda.

### **Update, Budget FY20/21**

Ms. Mortensen noted there was an overage on the salary line item on the FY20 budget. Mr. Oram is working with the Finance Director to determine if Covid-19 salary was put in the regular salary payroll line. Ms. Mortensen noted that based on this year's budget, we will go over budget again in FY21. Mr. Oram will look into this and have this for the next meeting.

### **Cirrus Apartments, Request for a Waiver for Pool Regulations for Lifeguard Requirement**

Mr. Oram noted there is a shortage of lifeguards available; Cirrus Apartments would like to open their pool and are aware they will also need a Covid-19 monitor. Stephanie Donahue, Property Manager, noted that she is requesting the waiver of a lifeguard just for this season for the apartment community. Ms. Donahue explained that they have limited the pool to 10 people at a time per two-hour time block. There is a half-hour in between time blocks at which time the Covid monitor will spray the chairs and sanitize surfaces and clean the pool area. Children must be accompanied by an adult and they must show ID's. No guests are allowed this season, and are now only open from 10:00 – 6:00. The Covid monitor will also check to ensure social distancing and mask wearing. The Lanterns were allowed a waiver for a lifeguard, because they own the units and are a 55 plus community. Ms. Donahue noted that they do have a Certified Pool Operator on staff who cleans and checks the chemical levels. There are currently 366 occupants of the apartment community. The pool is four feet deep at the deepest part of the pool. The Board discussed liability issues and reviewed the State Regulations for Public Pools. Mr. Oram stated he would be in favor of the waiver for this year and is satisfied that it will be monitored by the Covid staff at all times. Mr. Narayana asked Mr. Oram to check the status of The Lanterns lifeguard waiver. There is a team of Covid monitors who are trained who will be working at the Cirrus pool.

**Motion:** Mr. Etskovitz made a motion to allow Cirrus Apartments to be exempt from the requirement of having a lifeguard at their facility for this year only, with rules in place for appropriate Covid monitoring, signage regarding Covid, pool safety (Use at your own risk), and signage regarding the age requirement of 18. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. Mr. Narayana amended the condition that this be inspected by Mr. Oram, or the on-call Agent, or a Board of Health Member, prior to implementation, and suggested a Covid inspection be done.

**Vote:** 4-0. Motion approved.

### **Review June 2, 2020 and June 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Mr. Daniele made a motion to approve the June 2, 2020 and June 23, 2020 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion.

**Vote:** 4-0. Motion approved.

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

The Board will next meet on August 4, 2020.

Agenda items: FY20/21 Budget, Food Program, Protocol for EEE/WNV outreach plan for public announcements in case of outdoor seating ban (August 18, 2020 meeting)

School walk-through meeting/ reopening plan.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Mr. Narayana moved a motion to adjourn. Mr. Daniele seconded.

**Vote:** 4-0. Motion approved.

Meeting concluded at 8: 23 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 7/21/2020 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Proclamation of the Board of Health for the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award to Decisions at Every Turn
2. Graphs of Total Cases, Combined Total Cases and Cleared
3. Draft Inter-Municipal Regional Nursing Agreement
4. State Pool Regulations
5. Cirrus Apartments Request for Waiver of Lifeguard Requirement
6. Photos of Cirrus Apartments Pool grounds
7. FY20/FY21, Year-to-Date Budget
8. Draft Minutes, June 2, 2020 and June 23, 2020 BOH meeting