

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.
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:

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

Others Present:

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Jim Adams, Superintendent of Schools
Caeli Tegan, Board of Health Intern

Ms. Mortensen called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WACA-TV.

Citizen's Participation

None.

Warren School - Air Quality Report – Superintendent Jim Adams

School Superintendent, Jim Adams, discussed the environmental assessments that were conducted at the Warren Elementary School. Mr. Adams noted that there are two reports, one developed through the School Department's agent, and one through the MTA (Massachusetts Teachers Association); links to both reports are on the School's website. Mr. Adams referenced a letter he had sent to the community, also on the School's website, which notes there is nothing of major concern in the Warren School, as well as the recommendations made. Mr. Adams noted that a Safety Committee was set up and has been working collaboratively to address concerns; Mr. Adams noted that the safety of students, staff and the community is taken very seriously.

Mr. Adams discussed the work that has been completed so far this summer; this work includes the removal of carpeting and tiles, and a full, deep cleaning and sanitization of classrooms, including vents, walls and ceilings. Teachers have been asked to ensure that vents are not covered as this can impede the air quality. Mr. Adams noted that there are outdoor vents which go to the inside that had been impacted by overgrown vegetation; a company was brought in to clear this area which has helped with the indoor airflow. Board Members asked questions regarding the test results, Mr. Adams noted that retesting will occur once the work is completed. The work that is being conducted is based on recommendations from the report provided by the MTA. The MTA is doing their due diligence to ensure a healthy work environment; Mr. Adams noted that it is all about the safety of children and staff. A letter to update the community will be going out soon; Mr. Adams will include the Board of Health in that communication.

Public Health Nursing Services

Ms. Mortensen informed Mr. Adams that, going forward, the Ashland Board of Health will be referring any requests from Ashland residents in need of required vaccinations to register for school to the Framingham Board of Health office. Ashland is in discussions with Framingham regarding regionalization of public health nursing services; Framingham has a new facility opening in downtown Framingham that will offer vaccine clinics for uninsured and underinsured. Mr. Adams agreed there is a growing need and is glad to hear there will be additional resources for Ashland students. The Board thanked Mr. Adams for his time in attending tonight's meeting.

(Mr. Adams left the meeting - 6:50 PM)

Caeli Teagan, Summer Intern, overview of internship project on vaccination promotion

Caeli Teagan, Board of Health intern and student at Boston University School of Public Health, distributed materials to the Board Members and presented information outlining vaccine hesitancy which she noted has become very prevalent. Through her research, she found that up to 86% of doctors surveyed have patients who are refusing vaccines. Ms. Teagan discussed the difference doctors see when they take a presumptive approach compared to a participatory approach when discussing vaccine recommendations with patients. Board Members noted that this information is very helpful and suggested that it be put on the Board of Health website; Board Members thanked Ms. Teagan for her presentation and her work with the Ashland Board of Health.

Appoint Member as the Board of Health Liaison to the Nyanza Advisory Committee

Motion: Mr. Daniele made a motion to appoint Mr. Etskovitz as the Board of Health Liaison to the Nyanza Advisory Committee. Ms. Teller seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion approved.

Discuss Board of Health's 2020 Regulations Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and consider Regulation to include Smoke Accessories

Mr. Daniele distributed copies of the Ashland Board of Health 2020 Regulations Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products with highlighted edits to the Board Members. Changes include the addition of the definition of Smoke Accessories, limitation on the sale of Smoke Accessories to individuals who are 21 years of age or older, and a provision that Smoke Accessories may only be sold by vendors who have a Tobacco Sales Permit.

Board Members agreed to hold a public discussion to review these changes in late September, to vote on the changes in October, and to keep the effective date of January 1, 2020. Board Members discussed surveying the convenience stores to determine whether any vendors are currently selling Smoke Accessories.

Motion: Mr. Daniele made a motion to accept the current draft with the exception of a change to Ms. Teller's name in the heading of the document. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion approved.

Health Agent's Report

Budget FY20/FY21 Updates

Mr. Oram noted that the budget is at 6.8% for Permanent Positions. Presently there have been no issues at the landfill, therefore we are in good shape with Contracted Services. Ms. Mortensen noted that, in regards to the Purchase of Nursing Services, the cost to each community has not yet been determined by the City of Framingham and is currently under review. Framingham has indicated that they will try and accommodate current staff depending on hours available and other factors.

FY 2021 Budget Review / Preparation

Mr. Oram noted he would like see a small portion of the 2021 budget allocated for Narcan purchase. The Board discussed the Grant the Board of Health received for 125 doses of Narcan in 2018; Mr. Oram noted the remaining dosages will expire in October and thanked Sargent Ed Burman for his efforts in distributing Narcan as well as training.

Mr. Oram noted that Metrowest Health Foundation funded the Narcan; discussion continued regarding sustaining the grant, or potentially budgeting funds in the 2021 budget for Narcan, if there is a demand. Mr. Oram suggested this may be done as a joint effort with the Police/Fire. Mr. Oram noted the potential cost of five dosages to be approximately \$200. Ms. Mortensen suggested this discussion be tabled to the next meeting, in the meantime she would like to see if there is additional Grant funds available, and what the Board's obligation is in sustaining the Grant.

Mr. Oram noted that he would like the Board to look at a part-time or full-time Assistant Health Agent, with 24-30 hours per week being dedicated to food inspections. The additional hours would allow extra inspections at priority facilities (large restaurants, grocery stores, schools, nursing homes), as well as checking grease trap logs and sponsoring educational programs. Board Members discussed the amount of funds available in the food revolving account; Ms. Mortensen suggested the Board review the fee schedule and the Food Establishment Program, and that these items, as well as the 2021 Budget, be on our next agenda. Mr. Narayana expressed the importance of a strong food inspection program in Town. Mr. Oram will send out the Ten Essentials of Public Health to Board Members.

Chokesaver Certification Update

Laura Clifford reviewed a spreadsheet with the Board which included food establishments that have seating for 25 or more, the number of hours of operation per week, and the number of hours of work of staff trained in CPR/Chokesaver per week. Ms. Clifford noted there is some information that is still outstanding, but Mr. Curran is working to ensure all restaurants are in compliance and have at least one trained staff on site at all times. Mr. Narayana noted that if an establishment is not in compliance, they can be subject to closure; Mr. Oram noted they would need to come before the Board for a hearing. Ms. Mortensen suggested using the BAA (Boston Athletic Association) Grant to host a CPR training for our food establishments, as well as for the public. Board Members agreed to include this on a future agenda.

Chairperson's Report

- **Donation Reallocation**

Ms. Mortensen thanked Mr. Narayana for his recent donation for the purchase of a medical freezer; because we are now planning to combine efforts with Framingham, we no longer require the freezer and the freezer was returned. Mr. Narayana offered the Board of Health to keep the donation for another purpose to be used at a later time; Board Members agreed and thanked Mr. Narayana.

Stop the Bleed Training

Mr. Oram noted that Kitty Mahoney is willing to have members of her medical staff train Ashland employees to use Stop the Bleed Kits, once enough people are trained we can put the kits up in the buildings. Mr. Oram thanked Chief Robie and Sargent Burman for their assistance.

Review of Minutes, July 16, 2019

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

Vote: 5-0. Motion approved.

Future Meeting Dates / Agenda Items

Board Members discussed availability for future meeting dates.

The Board agreed to next meet on September 3rd at 6:00 PM. September 17th will be the meeting for the public tobacco discussion. This meeting will be at 7:00 PM.

Ms. Mortensen suggested that she and Mr. Oram meet the Town Manager, Michael Herbert, to begin budget discussion.

Adjournment

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

Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 8/13/2019 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Warren Elementary School, Air Quality Reports
2. Vaccine Hesitancy Project Data
3. Ashland Board of Health Regulations Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Smoke Accessories with Edits
4. YTD Budget Report, FY2020
5. Up-to-Date Totals – Food Revenue
6. Food Establishments Chokesaver/CPR Status
7. Draft Meeting Minutes – 7/16/2019
8. A video recording of the meeting is available at WACATV.com