

Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.  
Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA  
Selectmen’s Meeting Room

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

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

**Members Present:**

Jon Fetherston, Diane Mortensen, Chris Daniele, Ronald Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

**Others Present:**

Mark Oram, Health Agent / Director  
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary  
Jim Adams, Superintendent, Ashland Public Schools  
Mark Dassoni, Resident

**Call to Order**

Mr. Fetherston called the meeting to order at 7:03 and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WACA-TV; he also noted the late addition of an unanticipated agenda item, due to the excessive heat expected as the public schools open tomorrow.

**Handling of Excessive Heat Inside the Public Schools**

Jim Adams, Superintendent of Schools, discussed the protocols that will be followed with school starting and temperatures in the 90’s with high humidity. Mr. Adams discussed areas within some of the buildings which have air conditioning, and noted that classrooms may be moved to these areas. Mr. Adams noted that shades are kept closed during the day and windows open at night. Temperature readings were conducted today and will be conducted again in the morning. Mr. Adams noted that he has been in communication with parents regarding wearing proper clothing and staying hydrated, and if parents do not feel comfortable, they have the right to keep their child home. Board Members suggested that extra water be made available, and that tomorrow’s temperature readings be sent to the Health Agent. The Board thanked Mr. Adams for coming to the meeting.

**Citizen’s Participation**

Mark Dassoni inquired as to the status of the berm at the Howe Street Landfill. Mr. Oram noted that Ameresco is responsible for ensuring that the vegetation grows, and hopes the plantings and grass will solidly take.

Chris Daniele, as a resident, shared information regarding a Memorial that has been set up at First Church in Natick for Opioid Awareness Day (August 31<sup>st</sup>) in remembrance of those who lost their lives through opioid overdose. SOAR Natick will plant a purple flag for each person who lost their life in Massachusetts as a call to action and a memorial. Mr. Daniele read a statement from First Church, adding it was very moving and hopes everyone will have a chance to see and feel it. Mr. Fetherston thanked Mr. Daniele for highlighting this important issue and acknowledged the work of Katie Sugarman.

**Review of Revised Policies and Procedures Manual, possible adoption**

Mr. Narayana made a motion to keep the edits in Paragraph IX. Ms. Mortensen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Mr. Daniele made a motion that we adopt the new Policies and Procedures Manual including today's amendment. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. Mr. Fetherston said he is happy for the progress and thanked everyone for their work on this. The motion was approved 5-0. Board Members each signed the Policy Manual. Mr. Dassoni stated he is pleased with the Board for this step forward.

#### **Planning for Juuling and vaping educational seminar, date, invited guests, participants and agenda**

Mr. Oram has spoken with Mary Cole, our area representative from the Greater Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership, and she has agreed to attend our juuling and vaping seminar, adding that her program is geared toward parents and teachers. Mr. Oram noted that he met today with Decisions at Every Turn (DAET), and they will work with us on this too. Other towns may also want to participate, Mr. Oram will reach out to the Region. The Board discussed possible venues and agreed on October 23<sup>rd</sup> as the seminar date. Mr. Oram noted that DAET would like to have a separate juuling/vaping seminar for students, possibly during the school day; the idea of having Sergeant Ed Burman attend the school event to discuss opioids was also discussed.

#### **Health Agent's Report**

##### **Ashland Day Booth for Board of Health, MRC and others**

Mike Gurnick, Medical Reserve Corps Chair, will be joining Mr. Oram at the Ashland Day booth to discuss tic borne diseases and Medical Reserve Corps; Learn to Cope will also be at the booth. Mr. Oram said if anyone has other ideas for the booth to let him know and to stop by, the date is September 16<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Learn to Cope, opportunity for Ashland residents**

Mr. Oram discussed a meeting he had with Jennifer Wuelfing, Ashland Director of Human Services, and Erin Clancy, and their work with Learn to Cope, a support group that deals with opioid abuse and supports families following an overdose. Meetings are held on a regular basis. Mr. Oram discussed the availability of Narcan through the Board of Health office.

##### **Warrant Articles for Fall Town Meeting**

Mr. Oram explained the process for any warrant articles that the Board may wish to submit. The deadline for submission is September 19<sup>th</sup>. Board Members agreed that September 11<sup>th</sup> would be the next meeting date and would bring any warrant article suggestions to that meeting.

##### **Grant for phone expenses from Region 4AB Public Health Emergency Preparedness**

Mr. Oram explained that Cambridge Health Alliance is our fiscal agent for Region 4AB, we received \$600 for Health Emergency Preparedness, and it will go towards phone service. Mr. Fetherston discussed the second positive West Nile Virus finding (in mosquitoes) and whether using reverse 9-1-1 could create a false panic. Ms. Mortensen noted that anyone signed up for alerts on the website will be notified by email if the information is posted as an alert on the website. The Board discussed WACA-TV playing Public Service Announcements.

Mr. Narayana discussed the EPA notice regarding safety protocols during the construction at 128 Main Street. Mr. Oram explained a similar letter was received during pre-construction at 60 Pleasant Street; EPA requires a worker health and safety plan in the event they encounter any chemicals from the plume during construction, which would require the contractor to immediately contact EPA. Mr. Narayana will forward any information he receives through Conservation to the Board.

Mr. Narayana inquired as to emails that had been distributed to the Board. The Board discussed using individual Town email accounts; Ms. Mortensen noted she would speak to IT to have the individual email accounts activated.

#### **Adjournment**

Ms. Mortensen made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Narayana and Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 8/28/2018 MEETING

(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Board of Health Policies and Procedures Manual with edit in Section IX.
2. Board of Health Policies and Procedures Manual, clean copy to be executed by Board
3. Article on Mary Cole, Greater Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership
4. Cambridge Health Alliance, Grant Award Letter
5. Memo -2018 Fall Town Warrant Article Information
6. Audio Recording of the meeting is available