

Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 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, Chris Daniele, Ronald Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

**Members Absent:**

Diane Mortensen

**Others Present:**

Mark Oram, Health Agent / Director  
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary  
Matthew Sweeney, C.O.O., Long Term Centers Group  
Kathy Lill, R.N., Mill Pond Rest Home

**Call to Order**

Mr. Fetherston called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by WACA-TV.

**Citizen’s Participation**

Mr. Fetherston shared an event that occurred during the Ashland High School football game when senior, Owen Lovely, scored a touchdown which Rob Gronkowski shared on his social media page; it was a great moment.

**Mill Pond Rest Home, update**

Kathy Lill and Matthew Sweeney joined the Board at the table. Mr. Oram explained that a letter was sent on behalf of the Board to Long Term Centers Group, which oversees Mill Pond Rest Home in Ashland. The letter stated that there are still pending items discussed at the prior meeting which had not yet been received by the Board of Health. Mr. Oram also noted that a furnace had failed over the weekend; Ms. Lill noted that it was repaired that day. Mr. Sweeney distributed packets to the Board which included an updated Disaster Plan and call tree, he also noted that in-service training of staff has been completed. Transportation was discussed, Mr. Sweeney will call Tommy’s Taxi and has verbal agreements with the two churches and the Red Roof Inn for emergency housing, as well as beds in their other facilities; MAP Senior Care would also help provide shelter. The Board agreed that Mr. Daniele will reach out to the churches to confirm the agreement. Mr. Sweeney will provide additional documentation to the Board this week.

Mr. Fetherston made a motion that if the proper documents are not received, the Board will send a letter to the State. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

### **Status of State Approval of 2013 Food Code**

Mr. Oram reported that the State has adopted the 2013 Food Code, notice will be sent to the food vendors informing them of the change; the changes will also be reviewed during routine inspections.

### **Discuss Upcoming Juuling/Vaping Seminar (November 1, 2018)**

Mr. Oram is working with Decisions at Every Turn (DAET) in coordinating an expert/discussion panel for the Juuling / Vaping Seminar and will touch base with the Speaker, Mary Cole, as to any technology needed. DAET is also working with Mr. Fetherston and will attend a Rotary-sponsored event on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Hampton Inn; Blue Cross will be in attendance and is working to distribute narcan to the larger businesses in the area. The awareness is still not there regarding narcan availability.

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

#### **Restaurant openings updates: Bagel Table and Noodle City**

Mr. Oram updated the Board regarding the latest restaurant openings, including The Bagel Table, and Noodle City, which both opened last week.

#### **Health Spa, Foot and Body Massage, Pond Street, status of licenses with State**

Mr. Oram noted a new business, which is in the process of opening, opened without an occupancy permit or proof of State licensure; Mr. Oram told the owner of the facility that they will need to remain closed until proper permits and licenses are obtained.

#### **Public Health Nursing updates on request for immunizations and public health promotion programs**

Mr. Oram noted that another case of TB has been reported, as well as a communicable disease; because of this increase in activity he would like to see the nursing budget discussed at a future meeting. The Board discussed Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM), a polio-like disease that affects the nervous system and can cause paralysis. There are 62 confirmed cases across 22 states, two in Massachusetts. There is no vaccine, and no known cause.

Mr. Narayana noted that the Dementia Friendly Kickoff will be held on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Oram noted a number of phone calls have been received from parents of school age children regarding having their children immunized so they can remain in school, they were directed to call the Edward Kennedy Health Center in Framingham. The schools had given notice to families that they have until October 1<sup>st</sup> to be immunized, but some did not meet the deadline. Mr. Oram will speak to the School Nurse to see if this is an ongoing issue. Mr. Oram discussed having childhood and adult vaccines available through the Board of Health Office and would like to see additional funding for other public health promotion programs as well. Mr. Oram noted that no has signed up yet for the flu clinic for employees and seniors through Rite Aid, and noted we have not received any inquiries for the flu vaccine.

#### **Cirrus Apartments, status of irrigation wells**

Mr. Oram noted that Irrigation Well #2 at Cirrus Apartments cannot be used, but Well #1 is being used; they are required to test the well at the start and end of the season but has not received testing results. The Board discussed the Shadow Creek well, Mr. Oram noted that it has not yet been approved, and he is still waiting for documents.

#### **Landfill routine testing and monitoring, status of October 2018 tests**

This month's landfill testing showed a detection of 25% of the exceedance level for methane in the groundwater monitoring wells, DEP will most likely wait for the next set of testing. Mr. Oram discussed the report and noted the vents are doing their job and pushing out the gas. The Board discussed inviting DEP to a future meeting devoted to the landfill.

**Conferences to be held by Mass. Association of Health Boards and Mass. Health Officers Association**

Mr. Oram discussed the Mass. Association of Health Boards (MAHB) meeting available for Members, and noted he will be attending the Mass. Health Officers conference in November.

**Request for tree safety regulations, correspondence from Attorney Cheryl Sbarra**

Mr. Oram noted there was a request for the Board of Health to consider adopting tree regulations due to dead tree limbs falling on cars, Mr. Oram said it is an important issue but the best avenue would be through the Tree Warden/DPW. MAHB Attorney Cheryl Sbarra was not aware of any Board of Health regulations; Mr. Fetherston suggested inquiring as to her availability to participate on the Juuling/Vaping panel.

**FY 19 and 20 Budget reviews**

Mr. Oram suggested a meeting in December could be dedicated to FY20 budget preparation; the Board could prepare data to present to FinCom. Nursing services and contracted services are areas that the Board may want to look closer at. Mr. Oram discussed updates to the Food Program software; Mr. Narayana suggested the updated form include time spent at the establishment by the Food Inspector.

**Review of Minutes, October 2, 2018**

Mr. Narayana made a motion that the October 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes of the Board be accepted as presented. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

**Discuss Future Agenda Topics and Meeting Dates**

- 128 Main Street (November 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Review Tobacco Regulations w/ Amy Turncliff (November 20<sup>th</sup>)
- 2019 Budget Overview (December 4<sup>th</sup>). The Board discussed inviting Michael Herbert to this meeting.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Narayana made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 10/16/2018 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Mill Pond Rest Home-Emergency Disaster Plan; Call Tree
2. FY19 YTD Budget
3. Email from Mike Kane re: tree issues
4. Vaping/Juuling Seminar flyer
5. October 16, 2018 Draft Minutes
6. Audio Recording of the meeting is available