

Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
January 7, 2020  
Ashland Town Hall  
Select Board Meeting Room  
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 and Ron Etskovitz

**Members Absent:**

Koduvayur Narayana

**Others Present:**

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director  
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary  
Mark Dassoni, Resident  
Melissa Evans, Tobacco Control Agent  
Michael Gurnick, Medical Reserves Corp  
Roberta Ho, Medical Reserves Corp  
Kaeli Teagan, Medical Reserves Corp

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

Ms. Mortensen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and noted the meeting was being recorded by WACA-TV.

**Citizen's Participation**

Chris Daniele, as a resident, discussed the hard work by the Board of Health on the Tobacco Regulations. He noted that Decisions at Every Turn (DAET) and others have also provided information on the dangers of the products which the new Regulations protect our youth against. Mr. Daniele expressed his disappointment in the retailers who requested additional time for the Regulations to go into effect and noted he will no longer support those retailers.

**Melissa Evans, Tobacco Control Agent – 6:10 PM**

Ms. Mortensen welcomed to the Board Melissa Evans, the new Tobacco Control Agent. Ms. Evans will be visiting tobacco vendors to educate them on the new Regulations in place, and to make sure they are aware of June 1<sup>st</sup> date, and the State requirements on vaping.

Ms. Mortensen asked Mr. Oram to recap the Regulations. As of January 1, 2020, the age to buy smoke accessories is 21 and you must have a tobacco sales permit to sell paraphernalia; the cap on the number of permits will be 17, once surrendered, they will be dissolved; all flavors are eliminated except for menthol, our law does not allow for any flavors including tobacco, and menthol which will be banned as of June 1, 2020.

Ms. Evans discussed her last round of compliance inspections which includes checking their permits, licenses and prices, they are not permitted to sell products at prices below the guidelines provided by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue; this prevents vendors from undercutting and making products more affordable and accessible to youth. Mr. Daniele suggested the vendors should sign off on the form; Ms. Evans agreed to add a signature line to the form. Mr. Oram noted there will be an opportunity to hire an Assistant Tobacco Compliance Officer to work on the education side; this should happen in the next month, as well as the two students who will work with Ms. Evans. Ms. Evans noted that having 3-4 compliance checks per year has brought the Town to almost 100% compliance. Mr. Oram noted that Decisions at Every turn has \$1,000 available for education, which we can use to work out a program.

**Mike Gurnick, Medical Reserve Corps Chairperson and Roberta Ho, Regional Coordinator – 6:20 PM**

Michael Gurnick, Roberta Ho and Kaeli Teagan sat with the Board to discuss the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Ms. Teagan distributed to the Board copies of the MRC application, a CORI application and an overview sheet of the ICS100 Course, a requirement to become an MRC Member. Ms. Ho gave a history of the MRC which she noted is comprised of 180,000 volunteers from 860 communities working together to reduce vulnerabilities, build resilience and improve preparedness to natural disasters, including sheltering during hurricanes and blizzards. Board Members discussed ways to develop the program in Ashland. The MRC application process, including the CORI application, was discussed. Board Members discussed setting up a database based on any areas of expertise/skills, as well as having a table set up at Town Meeting, Farmer’s Market and Ashland Day. Mr. Oram explained that we received Stop the Bleed kits, MRC has offered to have a Stop the Bleed training. Mr. Oram noted that management would prefer to have the training prior to any kits being put up in the Town buildings; Ms. Ho noted that requests for training would need to be made a month in advance. Ms. Ho discussed the multiple training opportunities available through MRC. Ms. Teller requested the application forms be sent electronically and also be put on the Board of Health website. Ms. Ho suggested partnering with other public officials, such as Police and Fire, and community groups such as Rotary Club or Lions. Mr. Daniele noted he would distribute to students at MassBay. Ms. Mortensen suggested that the Board brainstorm ways to recruit MRC members at a future meeting.

**EEE – After Action Report, Review, Appoint Board of Health Representative**

Mr. Oram attended a meeting this morning with a central region representative from Massachusetts Department of Public Health; one of the main concerns was messaging, having a clear direction from the State prepared and ready to roll out. It was a question among many in attendance. They did note that the severity of the next season is based on the amount of rainfall in the fall and spring; the other factor is the bird migration. The virus starts in birds from Florida which travel north to Massachusetts, due to the wetlands in southern Massachusetts. Mr. Oram noted we will also have a Town After Action Report meeting, which will include Assistant Town Manager Jenn Ball, as well as the person the Board assigns as the Board of Health Representative. Ms. Teller volunteered to be the Representative for the Board.

**Motion:** Mr. Daniele so moved the motion to appoint Judi Teller as the rep as the after action review for EEE. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

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

**Old/New Business**

**Air Quality Report Update – Warren School**

No update at this time, this item will remain on the agenda.

## **Chair's Report**

### **Update on Regionalization of Nursing Services**

Ms. Mortensen noted that we have received information from Sam Wong, Framingham Board of Health Director, stating that we did receive the grant we had applied for; the remainder of FY20 the amount is \$22,000; FY21 the amount will be \$44,000 and FY22 is \$44,000 which are negotiable. This will remain on the agenda as it is updated.

## **Health Agent's Report**

### **Budget FY20 Updates**

Mr. Oram noted the budget is in good order.

### **Update on the proposed public hearing by the Environmental Protection Agency to review the Nyanza site in respect to changes for the mitigation of the groundwater cleanup noted in Operable Unit II**

Mr. Oram noted this public hearing will take place on January 23, 2020 at 6:30 – 8:30 PM and will overview Operable Unit II, located in the center of Town. There are currently 40 vents in buildings and homes in Town within the plume area, they are looking to clean up any hotspots as well as cleaning up the groundwater. The flyer has been sent to 500 residents and the Hearing will be held at the High School.

Mark Dassoni inquired as to when the next Five Year Report on Nyanza is expected. Ms. Mortensen noted that they are in the review stage at this time, and the Report is forthcoming.

### **Narcan Grant, signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Framingham Board of Health and receipt of Narcan**

Mr. Oram noted that we have received the Narcan grant, we received five up-to-date narcan kits which expire March 2021. Mr. Oram noted he has worked with Kelly Joseph, and Nancy Cleary today to set up media releases and advisements that this is available for the public. Framingham is televising, and we are hoping to find ways to get the word out that it is available. Ms. Mortensen noted this could be discussed during the Goals and Objectives meeting, the Board could brainstorm ideas.

### **Metrowest Opioid Coalition invite on January 31, 2020, response to Opioid crisis**

Mr. Oram noted this meeting will be held on January 31, 2020 in Natick; Mr. Oram will send out the notice to the Board.

### **Updates on State tobacco legislation and Tobacco Control Agent activities**

Mr. Oram noted the State has come out with regulations which are effective on the same date as the regulations on vape products, which will only be allowed to be sold at adult retail tobacco stores. It would need to be a separate store for that purpose only.

### **Review of Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, Workshop to be offered to Core Team Members**

Mr. Oram noted that Town personnel, including DPW, Planning, Sustainability, Fire, Police and management will attend a resiliency building workshop hosted by Fuss & O'Neill; the group look at grants to help with infrastructure to define areas of structural weaknesses. Mr. Oram will update the Board.

## **Food Establishments Updates:**

### **New Facilities: Mazi's at old Blockbuster location; 2Mauro's at old Papa Gino's on Union St and Oregon Club septic system upgrade**

Mr. Oram reported a new opening occurred at 2Mauro's; the owners of Mazi's Restaurant is working with him and the food inspector on plans. McDonalds must remain closed, after opening their drive-

thru without permission, and without an operating bathroom for employees. The Oregon Club is upgrading their septic system, it will be a great improvement from what is currently there.

**Review Minutes, November 19, 2019 and December 10, 2019**

Board Members discussed a clarification to the December 10<sup>th</sup> minutes, regarding the ban on vapes to add the wording “from non-adult tobacco retail stores”.

**Motion:** Mr. Daniele so moved the motion to approve the November 19, 2019 and December 10, 2019 minutes with the change as noted. Ms. Teller seconded the motion.

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

**Signing of Revised Tobacco Regulations (Reviewed by Town Counsel)**

Board Members signed the revised Tobacco Regulations.

**Discuss Future Agenda Topics for January 21, 2020 and Future Meeting Dates**

The Board discussed the following items to be placed on upcoming agendas:

- Meeting with Tim Deschamps of Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control
- CeCe Doucette, request to update Board of Health on recent legislation on wireless communication
- Board of Health input on Long Term Goals

Mark Dassoni noted that, although the Board doesn't have jurisdiction over the wireless communication proposal, he would like the Board and CeCe Doucette to look at the zoning information he printed out and discuss.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** Mr. Daniele made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Teller seconded.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 1/7/2020 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Regulation of the Ashland Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco and Nicotine Products and Delivery Systems, Effective 1/1/2020
2. Year-to-date Budget FY20
3. Draft Minutes, November 19, December 10, 2019
- 4.
5. Video recording of the Meeting is available on [wacatv.org](http://wacatv.org).