

Ashland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2023
ZOOM Meeting

Ronald Etskovitz, Chair
Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, Clerk
Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director

Ed Burman, Vice Chair
John Byrnes, Member
Bernadette Lunkuse, Member

Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:

Ron Etskovitz, Ed Burman, Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, Jay Byrnes

Members Absent:

Bernadette Lunkuse

Others Present:

Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, BOH Admin. Assistant
Victoria Wheeler, BOH Intern
Mark Dassoni, Resident
Dona Walsh, Animal Inspector

Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni noted that there will be Veteran's Ceremony held at his home to honor his father, who is a Veteran; he will be given a pin, a coat and a Citation. The Award is being presented by the VA.

Nomination of Animal Inspectors, Dona Walsh and Justine Grasse

Mr. Gupta noted this is an annual process for the Board to nominate the Animal Inspectors; we will then submit the paperwork to the State.

Motion: Mr. Burman made a motion to nominate Dona Walsh and Justine Grasse as Animal Inspectors in the Town of Ashland. Ms. Sekesogundu Simon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion was approved.

Mr. Burman noted he has worked with Dona Walsh for many years; he acknowledged her dedication to the Town. Ms. Walsh stated she is happy to do another year, and the Town is growing each day.

Member, Jay Byrnes, Agenda

- **Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic, August 12 & 13, 2023, Update**

Mr. Byrnes noted they are continuing to recruit volunteers, and will soon be getting the word out to patients. They are still fundraising, and have many involved in the Community Host Group. Mr. Burman hopes that people will step up and volunteer, that is our biggest need. Mr. Etskovitz thanked them for their ongoing work to make this happen.

Health Director's Agenda:

- **PFAS Found in Fish in Ashland State Park Reservoir**

Mr. Gupta noted that on March 7th, 2023, we were notified by DPH that Ashland State Park is one of the 13 waterbodies in which they found PFAS in the fish. Mr. Gupta stated that the

information has been put on the Town's social media, and on our webpage, and signage is posted at the Ashland State Park to not eat the fish. The drinking water is safe, we have made that clear, there are no concerns there. Foams, fertilizers and plastics can cause the elevations in of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

- **Narcan/Community Naloxone Purchasing Program**

Mr. Gupta explained that we have received the first batch of Narcan kits, we received 144 kits (288 dosages). This was supplied free by the State. So far we have distributed 22 kits to the Police and Schools.

- **Childhood/COVID Vaccination Clinics**

Mr. Gupta explained that the Clinics are going well, last week 19 children were vaccinated.

- **Update on Tobacco Fine, Family Dollar Store**

Mr. Gupta noted that he spoke with the Regional Manager who said it is being processed by corporate, but at this time, they have not yet received the payment. Mr. Gupta will reach out again. Mr. Burman stated that he would like to see something in place if payment is not received by May 1st, 2023, such as suspending their right to sell tobacco, until the payment is received. That still gives them time, but shows the seriousness, that we stand firm on our policies.

Motion: Mr. Burman made a motion that if Family Dollar Store does not pay their fine by May 1st, 2023, we suspend their right to sell tobacco. Ms. Sekesogundu Simon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion was approved.

- **Nursing Grant, Metrowest Health Foundation**

Mr. Gupta explained that Victoria Wheeler, Intern, has been helping with the grant writing for the Nursing Grant, they have submitted a concept model and memo on the vaccine clinic, it is a \$20,000 per year grant.

- **Boston Marathon, Monday, April 17, 2023**

The Marathon is coming up; Mr. Gupta will reach out to Board Members to see if anyone may be interested in assisting. Two shelters will be set up; they will be there from 5:00 AM to Noon. Mr. Byrnes and Ms. Sekesogundu Simon will be in touch to volunteer.

- **In-Person Public/Town Meetings, may be beginning March 31, 2023**

There is an extension currently in the Governor's Office; if it is not extended In-person meetings will resume at the next meeting.

Mr. Byrnes noted that in regards to the RAM Clinic, they are planning to have a Resource Table set up, if any Board Members can be there. Mr. Gupta will reach out to the Framingham Health Director; Mr. Gupta said he will take care of the Food Permit, and will be on the next Ram meeting. Mr. Gupta noted there are two Interpreters who are part of the Hudson Shared Services that he will speak to regarding attending the Clinic; he noted that he is also available as an Interpreter.

Consent Agenda:

- **Review and Approve Board of Health Draft Meeting Minutes, March 7, 2023**
- **Review YTD Budget Report FY2023**

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to pass the consent agenda as submitted. Ms. Sekesogundu Simon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion was approved.

Discuss Future Agenda Items; Next meeting dates: April 4, 2023, April 18, 2023

- **Groundwater Use Restriction Regulation**
- **Animal Regulation Variance Request, 15 Tyler Lane**

Mr. Gupta explained that we will let the Board know when we receive information from the Governor's Office, regarding In-person meetings.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Burman made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sekesogundu Simon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 3/21/2023 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Animal Inspector, Dona Walsh, Nomination Letter
2. BOH Year-to-Date Budget Report, FY23
3. BOH Revolving Account, Year-to-Date Budget Report, FY23
4. Draft Minutes, March 7, 2023
5. A recording of the meeting is available at WACATV.com