

Ashland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2022
ZOOM Meeting

Ronald Etskovitz, Chair
Diane Mortensen, Vice Chair
Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director

Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, Clerk
John Byrnes, Member
Bernadette Lunkuse, Member

Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:

Ron Etskovitz, Diane Mortensen, Barbra Sekesogundu Simon and Bernadette Lunkuse

Members Absent

Jay Byrnes

Others Present:

Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, BOH Admin. Assistant
Ashwin Ratanchandran, Sustainability Committee, Chair
Ed Burman, Resident
Mark Dassoni, Resident
KG Narayana, Resident
Ed Corey, The Lanterns, Board of Directors
Stacy Radziewicz, The Lanterns, Property Manager

Call Meeting to Order, 6:02 P.M.

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

Citizens' Participation

Mark Dassoni, resident, wished everyone a Happy Spring, and expressed his thanks to the Chair for always allowing him the opportunity to speak.

KG Narayana, resident, congratulated Ed Burman on his promotion in the Town of Wayland.

Sustainability Committee Presentation: Net Zero Resolution

Ashwin Ratanchandran, Chair of the Ashland Sustainability Committee, took the Board through the Committee's efforts since Fall of 2019, towards their goal to achieve NetZero emissions by 2040. Ashland has been on the forefront and was one of the early adopters of the Green Communities Program. Mr. Ratanchandran noted that they see the Board of Health as a key stakeholder and believe it will take a concerted effort to achieve the 2040 goal, they have shared their Plan with other key stakeholders as well. Mr. Ratanchandran noted that there are five key areas that must be focused on to meet the Net Zero goal; Energy Supply; Homes & Buildings, Transportation, Smart Policy/Decision-making at both the State and local level; and Environment. Mr. Ratanchandran noted that it is important to advocate for bicycling and public transportation, adding that most major car companies have committed to complete electrification by 2030/2040. The Sustainability Committee would like to see municipalities take the lead, by implementing electric school buses; they are working with the Town Manager in the planning aspect regarding Town development.

Mr. Narayana inquired as to the cost to achieve this goal; and, how to maintain the tree/solar balance.

Mr. Ratanchandran noted that it is costly to transition existing homes, they hope to start with

electrification of new buildings; he believes there is a significant amount of pent up supply of energy sources, and there are ways to mitigate the tree issues. Mr. Etskovitz inquired as to the new Safety Building; Mr. Ratanchandran responded that the Sustainability Committee worked with the Safety Building Committee and together they were able to resolve some significant areas of concern; he is pleased that they are using ground source heating. Mr. Ratanchandran noted that Ashland is one of the first communities to have solar panels in their high school parking lot; the Sustainability Committee would like to see any significant project in Town make Net Zero a core component. Ms. Mortensen commented that she would have preferred to see this Resolution on the Special Town Meeting, not the Annual Town Meeting, as it is a large Article. Mr. Ratanchandran explained that they are aiming to have the Resolution at the Annual Town Meeting, what is on the Special Town Meeting was time sensitive, he noted he was thankful for the feedback. Mr. Ratanchandran noted there will be an Open Forum coming up at the Ashland Public Library; he thanked the Board of Health for their time.

Lanterns at Warren Woods Pool, Request for waiver from lifeguard requirement

Ed Corey, The Lanterns Community Chairperson, and Stacy Radziewicz, Property Manager, were present for the meeting on behalf of The Lanterns; First Service is the management company. Mr. Etskovitz reviewed last year's meeting notes, and noted that The Lanterns are back in front of the Board to extend their Lifeguard Waiver. Ms. Mortensen noted this is a privately-owned community, and they would like to extend it longer than a year; she suggested extending it for two years. Mr. Gupta agreed, and noted he would be fine with this, as it is a small pool, and only four-feet deep.

Motion: Ms. Mortensen made a motion to grant a waiver of the lifeguard requirement to First Service for a two-year period. Ms. Sekesogundu Simon seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. The motion was approved.

Mary Mortensen Annual Public Health Award, Discuss Nominees

Mr. Etskovitz discussed the concept of the Award, and the list of achievements of Mary Mortensen, for whom the Award was created. Ms. Mortensen noted that Mary would have thrived during COVID, and would have taken a lead role; helping people was one of her major strengths. Two groups were discussed as potential recipients, Ashland Police and Fire, as well as Ashland School Nurses, both were instrumental throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. Board Members agreed to vote when all Members are present.

Discuss Board of Health Meeting format

The Board agreed that they are comfortable with the current meeting format of virtual meetings, through July 15th.

Consent Agenda:

- **Review and Approve Board of Health Meeting Minutes: March 15, 2022**
- **Review Year-to-Date Budget Reports, FY2022**

Motion: Ms. Lunkuse made a motion to approve the consent agenda as outlined. Ms. Mortensen seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. The motion was approved.

Member, John Byrnes' agenda:

- **Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic** – Tabled, will discuss at the next meeting.

Health Director's Agenda:

- **COVID-19, Update**

Mr. Gupta noted there have been 38 confirmed cases; this number is based on PCR testing, and does not include cases confirmed through the rapid/at-home tests that are typically not

reported. Fortunately, we are not seeing too many new cases this week. Hopkinton will be having a clinic for the second booster vaccine; we will have one if there is demand. Rapid test kits are available for any resident who would like one; they may be picked up at the Town Hall and also at the Community Center.

- **Childhood Vaccine Program, Update**

The Childhood Vaccine Clinic will be starting tomorrow; Mr. Gupta thanked the Town and the Board Members for their support. The Clinic will be held tomorrow from 2:00 – 6:00 PM.

- **Blood Pressure Clinic, Ashland Community Center, Update**

Mr. Gupta recognized Jessica Twardowski from Shared Services, he noted that she is doing tremendous work on the Blood Pressure Clinics and the Childhood Vaccine Clinics.

- **New Mindess School Kitchen, Update**

Mr. Gupta reported that he has reviewed the cafeteria plans for the new Mindess School, there were a few changes that had to be revised on the plan.

- **Housing Cases, Update**

Mr. Gupta noted that there are a few housing cases we are currently working on.

- **GreenUp Ashland, May 7, 2022**

Mr. Gupta noted that he attended a great GreenUp Committee meeting a couple weeks ago, they discussed specific areas that would be focused on. A smaller event will be held prior to the Marathon to clean along the Marathon route.

- **Boston Marathon, Monday, April 18, 2022**

Mr. Gupta noted that a couple of Board Members have expressed interest in helping at the Marathon, we also have four Red Cross volunteers and an MRC Member who will be working that day.

- **Mental Health Workshop/Fair, May 2022, Community Center**

Mr. Gupta explained there will be a Mental Health Workshop organized by Jennifer Wuelfing, at the Community Center, during the third week in May; there will be a Board of Health table with educational material, he will be there with Jessica Twardowski, Public Health Nurse from Shared Services.

Mr. Narayana noted that GreenUp Ashland will be held the first weekend in May.

Discuss Agenda Topics for Future Meetings:

- **Mary Mortensen Public Health Award Presentation**
- **Extreme Heat**

Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Mortensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lunkuse seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 4/5/2022 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. COVID-19 Confirmed and Probable Cases – Charts
2. Letter from The Lanterns/Waiver Request pertaining to Lifeguard requirement
3. 105 CMR: 435.23: Lifeguard Regulation
4. March 15, 2022, Draft Meeting Minutes
5. YTD Budget Report, YTD Revolving Fund Budget Report
6. A recording of the meeting is available at WACATV.com