

Ashland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2022
ZOOM Meeting

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

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

Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:

Ron Etskovitz, Ed Burman, Bernadette Lunkuse and Jay Byrnes

Members not Present

Barbra Sekesogundu Simon

Others Present:

Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, BOH Admin. Assistant
Ed Hart, Resident
Alan MacIntosh, Provisions Trading Company

Call Meeting to Order, 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. and stated that the meeting was being recorded by WACA.

Citizens Participation

None

Approve List of Food Establishment, Retail Food, Catering, Mobile Food, Residential Kitchen, Animal, Hauler, and Installer Permit Holders for 2023, contingent on receiving complete permit applications

Motion: Mr. Burman made a motion to approve the list of Food Establishment, Retail Food, Catering, Mobile Food, Residential Kitchen, Animal, Hauler and Installer permits for 2023, contingent on receiving complete permit applications. Ms. Lunkuse seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion approved.

Approve List of Annual Grease Trap Waivers

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to accept the list of grease trap waivers. Mr. Etskovitz inquired if there have been any issues with any of the establishments/interior grease traps. Mr. Gupta noted that we have asked DPW to let us know if there were any issues, interior grease traps are also inspected as part of our routine inspections, so we are good to move forward. Mr. Burman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0. Motion approved. (Ms. Lunkuse had stepped away from the meeting during this vote.)

Member, John Byrnes, Agenda

RAM, Remote Area Medical, Update

Mr. Byrnes explained that since the Board last met, the Foundation for Metrowest has been assigned as the Fiscal Agent for the Clinic, they will hold the donations and write the checks. Mr. Byrnes noted that Ed Hart, who will be joining tonight's meeting, is drafting an outreach letter to solicit donations. People will be able to go onto the Foundation for Metrowest site and may donate there directly. Ed

Hart joined the meeting, he is the Promotions Chair for the Clinic; Mr. Hart noted that a draft outreach letter has been sent to RAM for approval; once approved, they will send out the letter to some businesses, including banks and other area businesses. Mr. Hart explained that he has spoken with Michael Herbert and Beth Reynolds who will help spread the information through the Town newsletter and social media pages. Mr. Burman appealed to anyone who may be watching WACA tonight; he noted that we need healthcare professionals or anyone who may be willing to help out to please go to ramusa.org or reach out to the Board of Health. Mr. Byrnes noted that they will be meeting with RAM and will come up with a recruitment plan, he will update Mr. Etskovitz as to ways they may utilize his assistance in recruiting medical professionals.

Mr. Etskovitz thanked Mr. Hart for all of his help, in the past and present; and Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Burman for their work on the RAM Medical Clinical.

Consent Agenda:

- **Review and Approve Board of Health Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2022**
- **Review YTD Budget Report FY2023**

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Burman seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion approved.

Health Director's Agenda:

- **Childhood Vaccine Program, Update**

Mr. Gupta noted that the Childhood Vaccine Program is going great, we are getting many requests from many communities, however, the Public Health Nurse has resigned from the Shared Services Program, and is now working only for Ashland. Mr. Gupta noted that we will see how many vaccines we are able to do moving forward, given the capacities we have currently. The Shared Services Program has three open positions; they are having a hard time filling these positions. Mr. Gupta noted he is working with the Town Manager's Office to increase the number of hours for the Public Health Nurse.
- **COVID-19, Update**

Mr. Gupta noted there has been a spike in the number of COVID cases, most likely due from the holidays. COVID testing kits are available for residents, residents are seeing this information on social media and are coming in to pick up test kits.
- **Flu Clinics, Update**

Mr. Gupta stated that over the past couple of months, we have had 5-6 clinics, we have a limited number of flu doses left.
- **Tobacco Control Manager, Update**

Olivia Dufour, the regional Tobacco Control Manager, has resigned from her position. Compliance checks have recently been completed, and they will be trying to find a replacement for her position. The Grant that she was working under expires at the end of June 2023, we are hoping it will be extended. If not, we will use our budget to hire someone.
- **Provisions Trading Company, Addition**

Mr. Gupta stated that Alan MacIntosh, owner of Provisions Trading Company, made some additions that we were not aware of and we are requiring him to install a hand sink; Mr. MacIntosh has requested a 30-day extension for the installation. At this time, it has not yet been installed. Mr. MacIntosh stated that a hand wash sink is being installed tomorrow; he stated that he doesn't feel he should be forced to incur the expense of installing a hand wash sink when there have been multiple inspections and it was not brought up as being an issue. Mr. MacIntosh stated that bakery items are made in his restaurant and sold in the provisions store, he stated that he had sent an email asking what permits were needed to do this. Mr. Gupta stated that this addition was done without any approval from the Board of Health and

that he has been selling TCS foods without a hand wash station. Mr. MacIntosh stated that this expansion has been in the works for over a year. Mr. Gupta stated that he had not received any communication regarding the expansion. Discussion continued pertaining to various issues. Mr. MacIntosh agreed to follow the Massachusetts Food Code. (Mr. MacIntosh left the meeting at this time.)

- **Krua Khun Yah Restaurant, Addition**

Mr. Gupta stated that a similar situation is occurring at Krua Khun Yah, they added an area for bubble tea and waffles. They have completed we have closed that portion of the restaurant.

- **New Body Art Regulations, Review**

Mr. Gupta will send Mr. Etskovitz a draft of the Body Art Regulations this week.

Discuss Future Agenda Items; Next meeting date: January 3, 2023

- 125 Sudbury Road, Septic Variance Request
- Provisions Trading Co. – Mr. Etskovitz would like this on the next agenda to keep up and make sure Mr. Gupta is satisfied with the conditions.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Byrnes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Burman seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

**ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 12/20/2022 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)**

1. List of All Town of Ashland Permit Holders
2. List of Grease Trap Waivers
3. November 15, 2022 draft Meeting Minutes
4. Year-to-Date Budget Reports, FY23
5. A recording of the meeting is available at WACATV.com