

**TOWN OF WENHAM**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Meeting of Thursday December 13, 2018  
Town Hall, 138 Main Street

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Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, § 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) was held on December 13, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the downstairs conference room at Town Hall.

With a quorum present, Dr. Ting called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board Members Present: Gerald Donnellan; Regina Baker; Dr. Andrew Ting

Also Present: Maribeth Ting, Public Health Nurse; Jackie Bresnahan, Permitting Coordinator/Special Projects Manager and Recording Secretary; Joyce Redford, Director, North Shore/Cape Ann TAPP Program

Dr. Ting announced that the meeting would be audio recorded.

1. Public Hearing – 7:00 pm

a. To gather public input on amendments to the “Sale of Tobacco Products to Minors,” regarding increasing the minimum legal sale age to twenty-one (21).

b. Public hearing was opened at 7:00 pm. Public comment was received by the Board:

i.) Lorraine Miller, 31 Knowlton St, Hamilton: Made comments that she was happy this was happening now as a Hamilton-Wenham parent, especially given how kids can access tobacco products from older kids

ii.) Michelle Bailey, Remington Road – Echoed Ms. Miller’s comments. Ms. Bailey referred to BOH meeting over the summer regarding fines. She noted that vaping is an epidemic and that this action by the BOH is only one step. Outreach and information should be done to parents and community members about the dangers of vaping and that it’s the same nicotine as cigarettes.

iii.) Maribeth Ting, Public Health nurse, Burnham Road: what kinds of outreach. Work with school district nursing as well. School district nurses had a good event with Dianne Knight in May 2018. Recording is available to access on HWCAM. Mrs. Ting asked the other members of the public what is the best way to reach both parents and students.

iv.) Joyce Redford, Director, North Shore/Cape Ann Tapp Program: Outreach should be multi-tiered. Swampscott does well reaching through MIIA and sports’ nights. Ms. Redford found that parents in other communities don’t know enough about the issue to talk with their kids/students so they communication is ineffective. She noted getting this information is key, but the approach is multi-tiered. She noted that the “JUUL” brand and similar products have “pods” that are equivalent to a pack of cigarettes and can be vaped very rapidly. One pod is 59 milligrams of nicotine. Other brands have more nicotine and more flavors in some circumstances. She recommended looking at flavor restrictions in future as many other communities in the collaborative have done, including Hamilton. Ms. Redford provided more information about retailers and what they can and can’t order from the brands/suppliers.

v.) Ms. Ting asked what they most effective way to communicate to parents and noted all of the electronic communications (email, social media, etc.) that are going to parents, but not reaching parents.

vi.) Ms. Bailey suggested seeing if Ruth Potee could speak. Presenter Potee focuses on the science of the brain being affected by the products and the effect that these products have. This should be mandatory for all students, like at sports night (which is 75% of students/parents) as this is not covered enough at all during those nights.

vii.) Dr. Ting suggested “Curriculum Night,” for a presentation, but several suggested that that evening is already overscheduled and does not include students (as sports night is parents and students) so may not make sense to get enough time and enough people. Dr. Ting noted that this is an epidemic and

that the stakeholders need to figure out a time to share information about this. It was noted that at the three sports nights a speaker and coaches could touch upon this.

viii.) Due to limited audience attendance, the BOH Chair allowed discussion between members of the Board, the Public Health Nurse, Director, North Shore/Cape Ann TAPP Program, and the two parents present. The discussion included further discussion about speakers, events, locations, and other brainstorming for parent outreach.

ix.) Ms. Bailey noted many parents do not know their children are taking part.

x.) Ms. Redford noted it's a different demographic than cigarettes and there could be CBD in the liquid in the pods rather than nicotine. She suggested the BOH could issue a letter to parents to accompany an event.

xi.) Based on a question from Ms. Miller, Ms. Bresnahan noted a joint meeting with the Hamilton BOH to approach this issue together in January would hopefully be scheduled soon.

xii.) Ms. Baker noted how benign the products looked.

xiii.) Ms. Miller suggested something like the presentation at the Topsfield Fair, including the Wenham Police Dept. and the Tri-Town Council to inform parents at times that are convenient to them and help build interest and communication.

xiv.) Ms. Ting noted that she has been doing advertising for that program and others, but there's been very little response from parents and reiterated her desire for other outreach methods. She suggested speaking to "Friends of..." and other groups email lists to create another pathway. Ms. Bresnahan noted the BOH has their own listserv for exterior activities for mosquitos and that listserv could be available for this issue as well.

xv.) Ms. Bresnahan and Ms. Redford noted that only Nahant in our direct region will be at 18, whereas the rest of the region will be age 21 by December 30, 2019. Ms. Redford noted that the web sales/online commerce are being worked on by the MA Attorney General, as there is no control on the local level of those sales.

xvi.) Ms. Baker noted supports the age change the Board is discussing because it could start the conversation and reduce local access to these products.

xvii.) Dr. Ting asked if there was any further comment on the amendments before the Board of Health and there was not.

There was a motion by Regina Baker, seconded by Gerald Donnellan, to approve the draft of the Tobacco Regulations dated 11.8.18. It was passed unanimously with the effective date of December 30, 2018.

Ms. Bresnahan noted she would publish the changes to the regulations in the newspaper.

There was a motion by Dr. Ting to close the public hearing, that was seconded by Regina Baker, and it was unanimous to do so.

Ms. Miller asked a question about tobacco at Cumberland Farms in Hamilton and other local retailers in the community. She asked if we could write those retailers a letter or petition regarding asking them to not sell JUUL. She also noted she would like to see a similar letter or petition for the store selling tobacco products in the Liberty Tree mall in Danvers.

Ms. Redford noted that this type of letter or petition needs to come from residents, not from the Board of Health, as it's a regulatory authority, but residents can make that type of communication. She clarified to the residents could start that type of information.

Ms. Miller noted that she would like to see parents engaging on this type of activity and Ms. Ting noted it may be a good opportunity to engage students with community outreach and education. Ms. Redford noted that there are student driven groups doing this type of work.

The Public Health Nurse and Tobacco Program Director suggested other potential educational speakers and events and other methods of engagement.

## 2. Administrative

### a. New Business, not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

i.) Letter received from David Smith, Chair of the Hamilton Board of Health, after the agenda was posted, regarding adding penalties to smoking regulations. Mr. Smith discussed these issues with his Board and suggested a member from one Board start attending the other towns meetings like a liaison to discuss issues such as tobacco as well as on other health issues such as mosquitos and flu clinics.

ii.) Ms. Bresnahan suggested a full joint meeting of the two boards may better be a better use of time.

iii.) Ms. Bresnahan also noted that there was only one letter received regarding the new regulations and it was in support, but also suggested that both Boards of Health should reach out to the schools, and specifically, the School Committee on the youth tobacco issues, given their jurisdiction over school campuses.

iv.) The Board discussed talked about the tobacco regulations that currently exist in Wenham and briefly brainstormed ideas they would like to bring up with the Hamilton Board of Health and School Committee at a joint meeting.

v.) Ms. Ting noted she felt a full joint meeting made sense for this issue, while Dr. Ting noted that having one member from the other board's future meeting could be a helpful tool for collaboration on shared issues.

vi.) The Board discussed availability for potential dates for meeting with Hamilton and proposed suggesting January 10 or January 17 to the Hamilton BOH.

### b. Approval of minutes from November 7, 2018

vii.) There was motion to approve the minutes by Gerald Donnellan, seconded by Regina Baker, that was unanimous.

The Board adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Bresnahan