

Crete, Andrea

From: Mark Gottlieb <mark@phaionline.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 4:46 PM
To: Crete, Andrea
Cc: anthony ishak
Subject: Re: Belchertown 10/9/24 minutes and recording

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Hi Andrea -

I'll just chime in with a couple of thoughts. Your Chair and the SB's concerns are obviously not uncommon. As Anthony noted, no tobacco retailers have closed down in Brookline where this law has worked to eliminate sales to young people as they turn 21 and beyond and protect them from addiction to nicotine (and the health impacts and tremendous costs involved).

Because this policy only applies to folks who have yet to be old enough to buy tobacco, there is not a large existing demand that would motivate them to drive to other towns to start buying tobacco products. But the policy would, by design, deny Belchertown tobacco retailers the opportunity to get new tobacco customers from the ranks of youth you are about to turn 21. Those retailers would not, however, lose any existing customers who could all continue to buy tobacco. Nicotine Free Generation has a very tiny impact on retailers each year over a long period of time and puts communities that adopt it on a path to eventually be tobacco free.

It is not necessarily the right policy for everyone or every place. But if the long term health outcomes for the town are a priority, NFG will make it possible to gradually phase out the sale of the most harmful consumer product sold in Belchertown with minimal disruption to tobacco permit holders.

Restaurant and bar owners argued passionately and sincerely that banning smoking would put them out of business. There was resistance to raising the minimum tobacco sales age and a huge uproar opposing the ban on flavored tobacco sales. Yet, restaurants, bars, and retailers have adapted to the regulatory environment and remain in business. Most of the opposition is created by the tobacco industry and their retail trade associations because, over the very long haul, these policies will work to dramatically shrink their industry and, with it, the morbidity and mortality they cause which is currently just under a half million annual premature deaths in the U.S.

If I can be of any help at all, please let me know!

-Mark

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On Wed, Oct 23, 2024 at 8:05 AM Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com> wrote:

Good morning gentlemen, the biggest concern the select board have is the impact on local businesses. The fear of people shopping in other towns and taking business elsewhere due to not being able to purchase tobacco.

My board of health chair I believe just feels like this is going over board with regulating tobacco and that when people turn 21 we are taking away the right to purchase what they want. And if they want to purchase tobacco products then they should have a right to.

I have a select board meeting in Belchertown on Monday November 4th. The select board wanted to have the discussion about nicotine free generation and why the board of health is considering it. They have some concerns as mentioned above. I'm sure you know how politically charged some topics can be, and the selectboard is getting emails from tobacco lobbyists about this having a major impact on local business. So naturally they are concerned but are also not a public health board and cannot vote on the matter.

So anything you can do to help move this forward would be great. We can discuss more tomorrow. The select board meeting is open to the public and there will be a virtual option to join the meeting. If you feel it would be beneficial to attend I will send you the agenda when it is out with the meeting link.

I look forward to talking. Thanks for your help and reaching out to me about your involvement.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 23, 2024, at 7:01 AM, anthony ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com> wrote:

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Great, will call you then. If there particular questions you have then please send me so I can work on them ahead of time. I also cc'd Mark Gotlieb from PHAI in case you have legal questions or require his expertise. He defended Brookline in front of the SJC and helped with drafting of our regs.

Anthony

Sent on the go

On Oct 21, 2024, at 9:01 PM, Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com> wrote:

Yes of course, anytime after 9am.
I look forward to talking. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 21, 2024, at 8:27 PM, Anthony Ishak
<aishakpharmd@yahoo.com> wrote:

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Can I give you a call Thursday morning? I'm in clinic all day T/W and fly to Seattle Friday for the weekend.

Anthony Ishak Pharm.D. BCPS
he/his/him

On Monday, October 21, 2024 at 01:00:45 PM EDT, Crete, Andrea
<acrete@townofware.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Anthony, I'd like to talk about your involvement with this movement and how it could be helpful to the Belchertown Board of Health.

If you could call me at 413-967-9615 that be great.

From: Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 8:19 PM
To: Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; mark@phai.org
Cc: Mary-Jo Grenier (mgrenier@belchertown.org)
<mgrenier@belchertown.org>
Subject: Re: 10/9/24 minutes and recording

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Thanks for the reply, Andrea.

I would like to watch the video if possible and am happy to attend the next meeting if I can help the board by giving background as someone who navigated this policy through Brookline. I also cc'd Mark Gotlieb, the attorney at PHAI, who was crucial in it's passage in case there might be legal and general insight that the board would like as the consider this policy.

Anthony Ishak Pharm.D. BCPS

he/his/him

On Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 11:20:35 AM EDT, Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com> wrote:

Good morning Anthony, I have copied our Senior Clerk who posts does the minutes for the Board of Health meetings. The minutes are not completed as of yet, and will not be approved until the next Board meeting in November. Belchertown Community TV has not put up the Board of Health meeting yet. Mary- could you see if Anthony can get a copy of the gotomeeting recording?

To answer your other question Anthony, Belchertown is the only town in the District considering this update in their tobacco regulations on restricting sales to anyone born on or after January 1, 2004. There will be continued discussion at their next

Board meeting as not all members were present for the discussion.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday November 6th at 6:30PM. If there is a virtual option to attend, you are more than welcome to attend virtually or in person. Please keep in mind that this next meeting is not a public hearing and the Board may not entertain comment from the public on the matter.

From: Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 10:47 AM
To: Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>
Subject: 10/9/24 minutes and recording

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Hi Andrea

I am a resident of the Town of Brookline and I was the co-petitioner of the Nicotine/Tobacco Free Generation Warrant Article that passed in 2020. I was trying to find the video or minutes for your meeting this past week to see the summary of the discussion for Belchertown. Do you know where I can find this or how I can get an update?

Are any of your other towns in the Quabbin health district considering this regulation?

I'm interested in seeing the movement gather momentum and how I can possibly help.

Thanks

Anthony

Anthony Ishak Pharm.D. BCPS

he/his/him