

Crete, Andrea

From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 11:17 AM
To: Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlentz
Subject: Re: Tobacco Free Generation
Attachments: Economic Benefits of Nicotine Free Generation.pdf

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All ten of the nicotine dealers received copies of both the proposed regulations and the notice of the public hearing. According to Health Director Andrea Crete, none have responded, nor informed us whether they will attend.

My analysis (attached) of the economic impact of NFG is very positive for Belchertown. According to a University of Washington study, a majority of customers enter convenience stores to buy snacks, beverages, and food. Only 3% of customers enter a convenience store to buy nicotine. In comparison, five times that number buy lottery tickets. And the proposal would only affect a small portion of that 3%.

Two meetings ago, one vendor did appear, and we allowed him to speak. He did not mention the Nicotine Free Generation topic at all. However, he discouraged us from eliminating nicotine oral pouches below 6 mg., which is what he sells. He said some people sell up to 18 mg. These are especially popular among teenagers.

FYI, under MGL, the Board of Health is not required to hold a public hearing regarding tobacco regulations. However, we are doing this as a courtesy.

I hope you do testify, either at the hearing remotely, or at least by email to acrete@townofware.com.

Do you know whether any of the other Select Board members will appear?

Thank you.

--Ken

On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 9:40 AM Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlentz <wJorns-Kuhnlentz@belchertown.org> wrote:

Hi Ken,

I will most likely not be able to attend in person this week. I will try to join remotely. I have received about 200 emails at this point from people asking to not support the recommendation. But only 2 have Belchertown addresses. I would love to know what our local business owners think. But not one of them has sent us an email- have you all heard from the local businesses or surveyed them?

If they are not concerned, or engaged, that seems like taciturn approval.

Thanks Ken.
Whitney

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From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 5:12:29 PM
To: Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz <wJorns-Kuhnlenz@belchertown.org>
Subject: Re: Tobacco Free Generation

Whitney,

Thank you for your supporting words.

Might you be able to speak at the Public Hearing on Wednesday at 6:45 pm in the Town Hall Auditorium?
It would be helpful to have a Select Board member.

Thanks again.

--Ken

On Mon, Nov 4, 2024 at 8:32 PM Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz <wJorns-Kuhnlenz@belchertown.org> wrote:
Good evening, Ken,

Thank you, and everyone, for coming tonight. I very much appreciated hearing from everyone. And though I understand my option does not matter, I have decided to support the board's decision to put forward the generational ban regulation. Good luck with the public forum and please let me know if I can be supportive.

Whitney

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From: Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz <wJorns-Kuhnlenz@belchertown.org>
Sent: Saturday, November 2, 2024 10:20:02 AM
To: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>; Whitney Jorns Kuhnlenz <whitneyjorns@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Tobacco Free Generation

Thank you Ken,
These notes are helpful. I've done a bit of my own research as well and I admit I have not yet solidified my position in the matter. I look forward to hearing from the BOH Monday.

Whitney

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From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 2, 2024 8:13:27 AM
To: Whitney Jorns Kuhnlenz <whitneyjorns@gmail.com>; Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz <wJorns-Kuhnlenz@belchertown.org>

Kuhnlenz@belchertown.org>

Subject: Tobacco Free Generation

Good morning, Whitney,

Kris Hoag and Andrea Crete are scheduled to appear before the Select Board on Monday to discuss the proposal to amend the Tobacco Sales Regulations. I have attached some notes on the subject.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best,

Ken

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