

Crete, Andrea

From: Crete, Andrea
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 7:15 PM
To: kenelstein@gmail.com
Cc: Merridith O'Leary
Subject: Re: Nicotine and Kratom Regulations

I would talk with Merridith O'Leary.

I've copied her on the email.

Merridith, Ken is one of our Belchertown Board of Health members who would love to help the other boards of health in Hampshire county pass the nicotine free generation policy.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 15, 2024, at 6:47 PM, Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com> wrote:

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No, Kratom is not my primary interest.

I am going to try to encourage towns in Western Mass to pass NFG and perhaps ban nicotine pouches. I am not limited by employment rules, but I do not want to step on anyone's toes.

With whom should I speak?

- Merridith O'Leary?
- Heather Warner?
- Kiko Malin of Amherst?
- People in Northampton or Montague, where NFG has been discussed?
- Others you know?

I also plan to put together a team here, perhaps beginning with Gail Gramarossa.

Thanks.

On Sun, Dec 15, 2024 at 5:51 PM Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com> wrote:

Hi Ken I do not have time to meet next week and I will be on vacation the week of Christmas.

I'm not sure what options for regulating Kratom you are interested in as we banned it completely in town. But maybe I am misunderstanding the email.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 13, 2024, at 11:28 AM, Kristen Hoag <khoag@belchertownps.org> wrote:

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Hi Ken,

All Kratom on the market today is adulterated and nothing is pure. It is not approved for human consumption by the FDA. The AKA is pushing municipalities to allow Kratom to be sold to 21 and over. This is a lobbying tactic, as the more municipalities they can get to do this, the better for them to pass it at a State level. We are aware of the "playbook" tactics. If Needham passes synthetic Kratom, I do believe it is ALL Kratom products because there is nothing pure. So yes, likely the same as us. Monday is very tight for me, but could meet online after 3pm. Let me know.

Great about Colleen! That is a big statement and a huge victory for us. The youth were very proud to be there and testify. They worked hard on their speech and it was completely organic. We will celebrate them Monday at our Helping Hands meeting at 2:15pm. Have a super weekend and let me know what works for you all on Monday. Kris

Kris Hoag
Program Director/Project Coordinator
Belchertown Public Schools DFC/BOAT
413.323.0423 X115



Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together

On Fri, Dec 13, 2024 at 9:40 AM Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com> wrote:

I was watching the online Needham discussion about NFG, Nicotine Pouches, and Kratom, which they will vote on later this morning as a single regulation. It showed me that different Boards will find nuance and options with each of these.

They seem ready to vote unanimously in support of NFG, which would extend to Nicotine Pouches. There is some division on allowing pouches that are not flavored, but others say that all pouches are flavored even if they say they are not. They plan to only ban synthetic Kratom, which I think is the same as ours.

Question: Did we ban only synthetic Kratom and not naturally-grown Kratom? If so, why did we exclude the natural stuff?

I would like to discuss options going forward, perhaps next week. Would Monday be good, either online or in person?

Thank you.

--Ken

PS: The congratulations to us for Wednesday night's vote has been coming from across Massachusetts. Everyone loved the kids' testimony.

PPS: Colleen DuroShea was beside herself. She said she wants her tombstone to read, "She saved many lives." I asked her to put that in writing, which she did.