

Crete, Andrea

From: Kristen Hoag <khoag@belchertownps.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:58 AM
To: kenelstein@gmail.com
Cc: glgramarossa@charter.net; daveygmd@gmail.com; cduroshea@gmail.com; hwarner@collaborative.org; Crete, Andrea
Subject: Re: Nicotine Free Generation

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Thank you for this information Ken. It seems we are moving in the right direction with some valuable support. I will be away next week at a conference but please keep me in the loop. Kris

Kris Hoag
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On Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 11:17 AM Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com> wrote:

The statewide campaign for Nicotine Free Generation has been gaining steam rapidly.

There are now 14 municipalities that have approved it, the most recent one being Newton. Several other Boards of Health have expressed informal approval, with plans for upcoming public hearings.

We have two goals with identical strategies. Yes, we want as many Massachusetts communities to protect their own young people. And in addition, every community that approves will move their local legislators closer to voting for a statewide NFG policy. (This was the successful strategy of raising the age from 18 to 21.)

In one important initiative, we are working to get support from small towns without even one nicotine dealer. Their youngsters are just as vulnerable to nicotine addiction as those from larger towns. Plus, their legislators have the same voting rights on Beacon Hill. Towards this end, our neighboring Pelham Board of Health unanimously became the first to support this initiative.

We have been working with Anthony Ishak and Kate Silbaugh, the people who initiated NFG in Brookline. Locally, Heather Warner, Hampshire Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership Coordinator, and I have been figuring out how to reach the 150+ municipalities in the western four counties. We have a lot of work ahead!

For now, I am asking for your help.

- On Thursday, February 6th, both Amherst and Ludlow will be holding simultaneous public hearings about changes to their own Tobacco Regulations. Unfortunately, neither seems ready to include NFG. However, I am hoping "we" could have people speak respectfully at both hearings, in support of NFG. Getting kids to join us in speaking would be really helpful.
- I would like to schedule a Zoom meeting early next week so we can get organized, if only informally. Are you available? Do you know of other people who would be good to invite?

Thank you!

-- Ken