

From: Dylan Labonte <DLabonte@bellinghamma.org>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 8:07 AM EDT
To: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
CC: Maureen Buzby <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Subject: RE: Nicotine Free Generation
Attachment(s): "Proposed Tobacco Bylaws.pdf"

Good morning Ken,

Thank you for your interest and support! I'm happy to hear that the legislation has had a positive effect in Belchertown, and I'm looking forward to the same positive outcomes here in Bellingham. I've attached a copy of the proposed Bylaw, please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions! I know Maureen already suggested bumping our date back another year as we chose 1/1/2004, but unfortunately its too late for me to make any alterations to the bylaw now. After reading your message however, I did have the idea of possibly revising some details of the bylaw for the next town meeting in the fall. I noticed that I forgot to include the verbiage regarding the non-issuance of any new retailer licenses too, and that's another thing we'd like to codify.

I'd love to stay in touch as we go through this process, and I'll let you know how the meeting goes next Wednesday.

Thank you again,

Dylan Labonte

Health Agent - Town of Bellingham
Office Line: (508)-657-2860
Cell Phone: (508)-918-5638
Office Hours: M-Thu 7:30am-4:30pm, Fri 7:00am-1:00pm



From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 6:25 AM
To: Dylan Labonte <DLabonte@bellinghamma.org>
Cc: Maureen Buzby <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Subject: Nicotine Free Generation

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I know that you and Maureen Buzby have been communicating about the upcoming Town Meeting regarding possible questions about Nicotine Free Generation (NFG).

I have just completed my fifth year as an elected member of the Belchertown Board of Health. Belchertown and Bellingham have approximately the same population.

1. We enacted NFG in our December meeting, one of the sixteen communities to do so, effective on January 1st of this year.
 2. A year earlier we amended our tobacco bylaw to prevent any new tobacco retailer licenses.
- In the five months that NFG has been in effect in Belchertown, I have not heard of a single complaint from either nicotine dealers nor from the public regarding NFG.

As we explained to our merchants at the time, the effect of limiting new tobacco licenses is to grant them a local monopoly on sales, therefore strengthening their businesses against future competition.

FYI: The attached postcard has been mailed to a large proportion of likely Town Meeting attendees. It may answer some possible questions in advance.

Also, would it be possible to send me a copy of the proposed bylaw. I have been unable to find it online.

Thank you, and good luck on Wednesday!

--Ken Elstein, Member, Belchertown Board of Health