

From: Gilberti, Rick <RGilberti@BellinghamMA.org>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 5:39 PM EDT
To: Maureen Buzby <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
CC: Dylan Labonte <DLabonte@bellinghamma.org>; Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>
Subject: Re: Tobacco Ban

Hi Maureen, Thank you for offering me and the BOH help on such an important policy issue. I would like to have you and Professor Mark Gottlieb Esq. assist me at our Town Meeting. I'm just starting the process of training to be the Tobacco Agent for the town. I was appointed to the BOH for Bellingham in June of 2023.

I know this is short notice, especially with the holiday weekend, but if you could provide the "elevator speech" scripts I would be very grateful. We have a BOH meeting on Tuesday night the 27th. I could go over my talking points then with the board.

If any of us have any questions I will call you on Wednesday and we can also discuss this before the Town Meeting. We are items 19 and 20 on the warrant.

Thank you in advance. Best regards, Rick Gilberti 508-264-2483.

Sent from my iPad

On May 23, 2025, at 10:54 AM, Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org> wrote:

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Thank you, Dylan, for the connection.

Hi Rick,

Nice to "meet" you. Please let me know if you have any questions before next week's town meeting. My six communities passed Board of Health regulations, not a town by-law, so I may not be of much help but happy to try.

Also, Mark Gottlieb, NU Law School professor and Director of NU PHAI(Public Health Policy Institute) said he is available for Town Meeting if that is helpful. He's so good at answering audience questions. And he worked with Brookline on their town by-law.

Looking forward to working with you on this important public health policy. Don't hesitate to reach out. I have a few sample "elevator speech" scripts if that would be of any help.

My cell is: 781-307-1411.

Maureen

From: Dylan Labonte <DLabonte@bellinghamma.org>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 7:54 AM
To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Cc: Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>; Gilberti, Rick <RGilberti@BellinghamMA.org>
Subject: RE: Recent Tobacco Ban

Good morning Maureen,

It's wonderful to hear from you! Thank you for your help on such short notice.

Unfortunately, I'm not sure if we could change the date at this point since I've already submitted the bylaw to the town warrant as written. What do you suppose we could do about that? I was thinking, if it passes in the spring, I could propose an amendment at our fall town meeting to cleanup the date. Thoughts on this?

I've also cc'd Rick Gilberti, who is training to become our tobacco agent. Rick will be presenting the article at the meeting next Wednesday, so I wanted to make sure the two of you are able to connect before the meeting. I also heard from Ken Elstein from the Belchertown BOH too, and personally I feel more prepared going into next Wednesday with all the support!

Thank you again for your help! I look forward to seeing you next Wednesday night! The town meeting will be held at Bellingham High School starting at 7:30PM.

Have a wonderful weekend!

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: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 4:44 PM
To: Dylan Labonte <DLabonte@bellinghamma.org>
Cc: Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>
Subject: RE: Recent Tobacco Ban

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Hi Dylan,

Nice to hear from you. I am happy to attend Town Meeting in case I might be able to answer questions from residents. We have a number of subject matter experts (law school professors, physicians, and others) who would be able to field questions that are specific to their expertise. If you don't mind, I will forward information about the meeting in case others can attend as well.

Hopkinton adopted NFG at their BOH meeting last week. They selected 1/1/2005 as the birthday cutoff and 7/1/2025 as the effective date. Please feel free to add Hopkinton to your list of municipalities that have already adopted NFG.

I would suggest, if you can at this time, that you change the suggested birthdate restriction to 1/1/2005 so that your regulation will not prohibit anyone who is already 21 on the effective date from purchasing tobacco products.

Please let me know about inviting others to attend in case there are questions they are better suited to answer.

Thank you,
Maureen

From: Dylan Labonte <DLabonte@bellinghamma.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>
Cc: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Subject: RE: Recent Tobacco Ban

Good afternoon!

It's been a while! I hope this message finds you both well! Last time we spoke, I was at the very beginning of the NFG policy journey. Since that time, I've worked with our town counsel on the NFG regs, and we've come up with the attached draft for the upcoming town meeting. I've also prepared some slides to help clarify the article and ensure that voters know exactly what they're deciding. Admittedly, we've been relying on our town counsel to help guide us throughout the process. I think we've done a great job drafting the bylaws, and counsel has been a great help up to this point.

We're a bit concerned about the town meeting because we don't know what questions to expect from our residents when we get to the "Comments/Q&A" portion of the night. Is this something you're familiar with?

I know it's a big ask, but if either of you are available Wednesday May 28th at 7:30pm, it would be a huge help to have you in attendance to assist us with difficult questions or comments.

Please, let me know if you're able to attend! Thank you so very much for your help!

Best,

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

<image001.png>

From: Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 11:00 AM
To: Dylan Labonte <DLabonte@bellinghamma.org>
Cc: Maureen Buzby <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Subject: RE: Recent Tobacco Ban

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Dylan,

Excited to hear your Board is interested in the Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) policy. I am attached a recent guide, with sample regulations, to help local boards of health learn about and adopt the policy. I have also cc'd Maureen Buzby. Both of us are involved with a local ad-hoc group that can help testify at Board meeting/hearings and help answer any questions.

Sigalle Reiss, MPH, RS/REHS, Director
Brookline Public Health & Human Services

From: Dylan Labonte <DLabonte@bellinghamma.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 8:51 AM
To: Public Health <publichealth@brooklinema.gov>
Cc: Renaud, Laura <L.Renaud@bellinghamma.org>
Subject: Recent Tobacco Ban

Good morning,

My name is Dylan Labonte, and I work as the Board of Health Agent for the Town of Bellingham MA. My board members and I heard about your recent tobacco ban barring anyone born after January 1, 2000, from purchasing tobacco and nicotine products from retailers in your municipality. We were interested in enacting a similar ban here in Bellingham, and I was curious to know if you might be able to send over a copy of your ban to reference as we begin our drafting process. I tried to navigate your Town site to find it myself, but to no avail.

Thank you very much for your help,

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

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