
No BOH meeting 1/21 Canceled

10 messages

Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Tue, Jan 20, 2026 at 10:40 AM

To: Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com>, Steven Coughlin <SJCoughlin@gmail.com>

Cc: Irza Bigas-Melendez <ibigas@easthamptonma.gov>

Hi all,

We will not be holding a meeting tomorrow, 1/21, because we were unable to post the agenda with the required 48-hour notice.

I'm fine holding off until our February 11 meeting, unless you'd like to schedule one for next Wednesday, 1/28

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton Health Department

City Hall | 50 Payson Avenue | Easthampton, MA 01027

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122 📍 50 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, MA 01027

Website: www.easthamptonma.gov



Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 20, 2026 at 12:24 PM

To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Fine with me as long as long as there are no pressing issues. Thanks.

Beth

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 20, 2026, at 10:40 AM, Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Steven Coughlin <sjcoughlin@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 20, 2026 at 3:38 PM

To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Cc: Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com>, Irza Bigas-Melendez <ibigas@easthamptonma.gov>

At this point should we meet in February?

Looking for feedback.

Steven J Coughlin

sjcoughlin@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 6:23 PM

Cc: Irza Bigas-Melendez <ibigas@easthamptonma.gov>

Bcc: Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com>, Steven Coughlin <SJCoughlin@gmail.com>

Hi all,

No pressing issues. Just a few updates to share.

February Meeting

- I have reached out to the Mayor to see if he can attend the February meeting briefly.

East Street

- No update at this time. I reached out to the occupants via email in early January and have not received a response.
- I plan to order them to appear virtually at our February meeting to provide an update to the Board.
- April will mark the six-month point. If there is still no progress by then, we may need to discuss other options, such as appointing a receiver to bring the property into compliance. This issue has been ongoing for approximately four years, and the “temporary” housing situation appears to have become permanent, which was not the original intent. (Yard is also getting a bit unkempt, cars/bulky items ect)

Grease Traps

- I am placing this issue on hold until I receive further clarification.
- After speaking with State DPH, I learned that the way I was citing grease trap maintenance requirements only applies to food establishments on **septic systems**, not those connected to the city sewer.
- I spoke with Northampton, and they shared their FOG regulations (attached), which are well-written. We may want to consider implementing something similar.

Old Colony

- This issue first came before the BOH in March 2023 regarding the walk-in cooler, which was constructed of wood, which is not allowed.
- Although there is a new owner, the walk-in cooler has still not been addressed, and there is a significant amount of mold that cannot be cleaned.
- Food Code 6-101.11 (Surface Characteristics) is clear that walk-in cooler surfaces must be non-absorbent.
- Kelsey was working with the current owner, Naresh, last month, but I am unsure if the issue has been resolved. Originally he contested the order and requested a hearing. the hearing was continued in December.
- We will be reinspecting this week. I believe the wood should be either replaced or fully covered with a non-absorbent material.

Variance Requests

- Attached are Corsello's Reduced Oxygen Packaging (ROP) variance request and the Go With the Float variance request.
- Go With the Float has been pending for some time. I met with the owner in November, and he submitted a variance request that I believe meets the required health/safety standards.
- For Corsello's, Vincent and I worked together on a HACCP/variance plan that I am comfortable with. ROP is something he has been doing for quite some time without issue; now, it will require maintaining appropriate logs for our inspections and in the event of a foodborne illness.
- If the Board is comfortable and has no concerns, I can email both variances for approval signatures to free up space on our agenda.

1 Fugere Court

- Fugere has been an ongoing snow and plowing issue for several years.

- I spoke with DPW Director Nuttleman, and because it is a private way, the City does not plow it; responsibility falls to the abutting property owners.
- Multiple occupants from Searle, who rely on Fugere to access their rear parking lot, have stated that the landlords do not plow and instead leave it to tenants (against housing code)
- We sent warning letters to all abutting property owners advising them of their responsibility and that fines would be issued moving forward.
- The owner of 1 Fugere contested the warning, stating that he does his best to clear snow during every storm. As this is the only single-family owner-occupied residence on the street, I agreed and rescinded the warning letter for 1 Fugere.
- We will continue enforcement efforts with the multi-family properties.

Tobacco Regulations

- I would like to move forward with updating our tobacco regulations and recommend the Board hold a public hearing.
- We can discuss this in February if you'd like, but if the Board is interested, I can send draft regulations adopted by neighboring communities.
- Northampton will be the next town holding a hearing to implement the Nicotine-Free Generation policy this upcoming month, most likely joining Belchertown, Amherst, Leverett, and South Hadley who have implemented these regulations.
- I believe it would be beneficial for Easthampton's tobacco regulations to align with neighboring communities.
- While a public hearing is not required for non-Title 5 BOH regulations, I believe holding one would be the most transparent approach.
- Other municipalities strongly recommend holding hearings in person to limit organized attendance by outside tobacco-industry groups. I have already received several emails from individuals outside Easthampton, which I will forward to the Board.

Tobacco Compliance Issue

- On 1/19/26, Gerry's Variety Store was cited for selling tobacco products to a minor.
- A fine of \$1,100 was issued for a first offense, along with a mandatory three-day suspension of tobacco sales from 2/12–2/14.
- If the owner contests the fine or suspension and submits a hearing request, we will schedule it for the February meeting.
- My concern is that as surrounding communities adopt NFG policies, our local establishments may continue to be put at increased risk.

Additional Updates

- We have been very busy overall.
- Irza did an excellent job getting all 2026 BOH permits renewed, great work!
- A new food establishment, [Pause & Pivot Farm](#), has purchased the American Legion and hopes to open in February. They are planning farm-to-table meals, a retail farm shop, and an indoor hydroponic farm, which I am very interested in.
- 1 Northampton Street recently opened as a performing arts venue/bar. There was some confusion regarding the need for a BOH food permit for a bar only (which is required in Easthampton per our BOH regulations). Kelsey has been doing a great job reaching out and working with them, but we are still trying to get them permitted. I am planning to issue a Cease and Desist to move hopefully the process along.
- Sam resigned at the expiration of her term in December 2025, so we are currently down to two BOH members. Irza and I will work on letters of interest to residents. Ideally, we would like someone with a medical or retail food background. Do you think Aimee might be interested in returning?

- I am hoping to schedule an in-person Food Protection Manager training/certification for our staff with our Health Department training budget if either of you would be interested in attending/have any weekday availability. It would be a 4-hour course here at City Hall with a Certification exam.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122

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7 attachments



OC walk in.png
749K



OC3.23.png
530K



1 Fugere.png
1157K



Northampton FOG BOH Regulation 7-1-19 (2).PDF
166K



Corsello_Variance_plus_HACCP_combined (1).pdf
1803K



go with float (2).pdf
1866K



Gerry's Variety- Tobacco fine_suspension 1.22.26 (1) (1).pdf
167K

Steven Coughlin <sjcoughlin@gmail.com>
To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
Cc: Irza Bigas-Melendez <ibigas@easthamptonma.gov>

Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 7:22 PM

Thanks for the update.

Would you like me to come into the office to sign the variance(s)? If so, I'm available to stop by tomorrow during regular business hours.

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Steven J Coughlin
sjcoughlin@gmail.com

Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com>
To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
Cc: Irza Bigas-Melendez <ibigas@easthamptonma.gov>

Sun, Feb 1, 2026 at 3:23 PM

Hello,

Thanks for the updates Ryan.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend our meeting on 2/11. Could we move it to the following week if possible? Irza would you mind reaching out to Steve about this? I don't want to violate any open meeting laws. Thanks!

Beth Rist
Sent from my iPhone

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<Northampton FOG BOH Regulation 7-1-19 (2).PDF>
<OC walk in.png>
<OC3.23.png>
<Corsello_Variance_plus_HACCP_combined (1).pdf>
<go with float (2).pdf>
<1 Fugere.png>
<Gerry's Variety- Tobacco fine_suspension 1.22.26 (1) (1).pdf>

Irza Bigas-Melendez <ibigas@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com>
Cc: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 9:14 AM

Hi Beth,

Hope everything is well!

Yes, I can do that.

Best,

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Irza M. Bigas Melendez

She/Her

Administrative Assistant

Health Department

City of Easthampton

ibigas@easthamptonma.gov

413-529-1400 ext.123

Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 4:05 PM

Cc: Irza Bigas-Melendez <ibigas@easthamptonma.gov>

Thanks, Beth,

I just sent a signature request for 1. Float Spa Variance. 2. Corsello's Roping Variance. If you are comfortable signing them, we can get them off the agenda, and I can get those out. If you have any questions or concerns, no problem waiting till the 2.18. meeting.

See you then.

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

 413-529-1400 x 122

On Sun, Feb 1, 2026 at 3:23 PM Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com> wrote:

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Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com>
To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 7:43 PM

Done
Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2026, at 4:05 PM, Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov> wrote:

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Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Beth Rist <bethristy21@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 10:08 AM

Thank you!!

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

 413-529-1400 x 122

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