

From: [Leah Peavey <leah_capalbo@yahoo.com>](mailto:leah_capalbo@yahoo.com)
To: [Wendy Hansbury <hansburyw@manchester.ma.us>](mailto:hansburyw@manchester.ma.us)
Date: 3/26/2025 2:17:02 PM
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - Re: Tobacco - NFG petition response

Hi Wendy,
Thank you for working on a letter combining all of our edits!

I wonder if the resident/select board member felt that the content of the public hearing was not advertised well enough because of the lack of residents that were there. I honestly did not read the advertisements for the meeting about updating our tobacco regulations in the Cricket so I do not know if we put in the Cricket that we were considering a generational tobacco ban or just that we were having a meeting about updating tobacco regulations. We did alert the businesses in town that would it would affect (thank you Ellen!). People would have read the proposed regulations on line.

The Gloucester Daily Times did have an article on the fact that we were trying to pass a generational tobacco ban on the day of our meeting. The article I believe was generated by the the convenience store owners group in MA.

https://www.gloucestertimes.com/news/manchester-advances-generational-ban-on-smoking/article_fdd90fa0-9178-11ef-9db8-57d2007608d1.html

For 11/13 towns (including Manchester), it was the BOH that adopted and voted on the regulations after a public hearing (like we did). For Brookline, it seems like the decision was voted on during a special town meeting. The count of the vote was as 139 voted in favor, 78 voted no, and 11 sustained. And in Newton, it was a city council that made the decision.

I am trying to understand whether the Select Board feels like this kind of vote should have been a vote for the Select Board or a vote for the town or whether they were ok with BOH voting but feel like people were not given enough notice about the nature of the vote or whether it is neither and they are just opposed to a ban in general. I want to have good communication between the boards but I do believe but I do believe the BOH was within its jurisdiction of bringing forth and voting on this regulation.

Also- if i am going to be the lone person at the Town Meeting responding to the public, I want to be prepared. I am very shy and really hate public speaking (which probably does not make me a great person to be on a board!) and as such am a terrible public speaker. I will do it b/c it is my responsibility to the Board and I was the one who suggested the regulation but I am very nervous about speaking at the meeting on behalf of the BOH.

Thanks for listening (reading :),
Leah

On Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 08:14:06 AM EDT, Wendy Hansbury <hansburyw@manchester.ma.us> wrote:

Hi Leah,

Thanks for the additional efforts on this.

The petition was likely in response to the Board not "listening" to the resident/select board member at the meeting, and the "government overreach" of regulations that affect people over 21.

Wendy

From: Leah Peavey <leah_capalbo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 6:48 AM

To: Wendy Hansbury <hansburyw@manchester.ma.us>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - Re: Tobacco - NFG petition response

Hi Wendy,

I worked on my draft some more this am. It is still not under a page though but shorter. I included a word doc and a pages doc.

I am honestly still unclear of what the petition is trying to accomplish (support generational ban but no fines, or do not support ban and using no fines to get rid of generational ban) and if we are addressing people's concerns in our letter.

A meeting to discuss this our letters/strategy/communication further may have been helpful.

Thank you for helping with all this on top of the other endless list of to-do's! It is really appreciated.

Leah

On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 03:06:29 PM EDT, Wendy Hansbury <hansburyw@manchester.ma.us> wrote:

Hi Leah,

Thanks for the edits. I will put it together with Martin's and send it out to the Board for comments. I will try to get it down to 1 page, so some good information may be cut. Please let me know if there is something you think needs to be in there and I'll add it back.

Wendy

From: Leah Peavey <leah_capalbo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 2:19 PM
To: Wendy Hansbury <hansburyw@manchester.ma.us>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - Re: Tobacco - NFG petition response

Hi Wendy-

I ended up working on the tobacco letter too. I felt like the letter as sent to us sounded too confrontational for me. I am not sure my edits are better as I used that as a background. I took a lot of information from your "Petition to Overturn BOH."

If the town supports the ban but just opposes the fines, I am for working with them and try to adjust our fines and not have to go to the town meeting for a vote- that seems sill. But if the town opposes the ban and therefore also opposes the fines but are fighting the fines as a way of fighting the ban and the vote is actually for or against the ban, that is a different scenario.

For example, Needham separates fines for violations of state rules (underage smoking, etc) vs local rules (such as generational tobacco pan as below with the fines lower (\$100 vs \$1000 for first violation). See #2 below for local violations. We could discuss amending our rules to something similar. Maybe lesser fines would be more palatable.

I found it difficult in revising the letter to know the ultimate goal of our letter. I wanted to educate people about the nicotine free generational band- the rationale and purpose from a public health standpoint and the history of how we came to adopt it for this town as I think most people in the town do not know. People who are voting will want background on the issue. People at the town meeting may take the vote to be one on the actual generational ban rather than on the fines. The letter as sent to us seems more focused on the process of making and overturning the law. I think people in town are less focused on that and ultimately more focused on the actual regulation.

I hope you are able to open my document. I did it on "Pages" on my computer and then exported it to "Word." I sent both. I crossed out old words and put in changes in red (you will see a lot copied from your Petition to Overturn BOH." There is a paragraph in green that I had copied that references the Cape Ann Tobacco Policy Program. I added it at the last minute to show we were working with others and do support the retailers but also think we could get by without it.

Likely- my letter is much too long. And without a doubt, Martin's will be the most well written, concise but yet complete.

Thanks!

Leah

On Monday, March 24, 2025, 04:24:20 PM EDT, Wendy Hansbury <hansburyw@manchester.ma.us> wrote:

I admit to being confused about which letter is being worked on, too. Martin sent comments on the tobacco letter, so I guess that is the one we are working on. I'd prefer to keep it positive and angled toward why we think this is important for us to adopt. I don't know exactly what the SB thought, but I believe it is business driven and a don't impinge on my rights as an adult.

Your comments on the Tobacco Letter will be appreciated.

Thanks, Wendy

From: Leah Peavey <leah_capalbo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 4:02 PM
To: Wendy Hansbury <hansburyw@manchester.ma.us>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Re: Tobacco - NFG petition response

Hi Wendy,

Ok- never mind this email- I will send you comments/edits tomorrow. Assuming the working document is the "Tobacco Letter?"

I agree with Martin that we should put something in the paper ahead of the town meeting to explain the BOH position and the new regulations as most people may be unaware of it until they see it introduced at the town meeting. Much better to be proactive.

Thanks!

Leah

On Monday, March 24, 2025, 12:15:04 PM EDT, Leah Peavey <leah_capalbo@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi- Thank you for all of the information and for you and Peter for putting together those letters. Sorry for the delay.

Are you saying that the ultimate decision was made not to send a letter to the Cricket and/pr not to send any information to be published about the recent adoption of our tobacco regulations?

From Ann Harrison's email, it seemed like the conflict was about the generational tobacco ban itself rather than the fines. Do you know if a Manchester resident had forwarded her the email? It had the talking points of Citiizens for Adult Choice (which is funded by the New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association).

I liked how the document labeled "Petition to Overturn Local BOH Regulations" included a rationale behind our regulation where as the "Tobacco Letter" is more about the process of passing the regulation itself.

It would help to know the motivation behind bringing it to a vote at the town meeting. Is the intent for it to be a vote against the actual generational ban or just the fines itself? I wish we could have de-escalated this via conversations with the Select Board before bringing it to a town meeting.

Thanks,

Leah

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, 11:08:29 AM EDT, Wendy Hansbury <hansburyw@manchester.ma.us> wrote:

Hello Members of the Board,

Attached are the letters Peter and I wrote to send to the Cricket. Also attached is a document with some of the comments from Peter and I in email exchanges. I hope this isn't confusing, but there was a progression of thought that ended with "no editorial in writing, call the Cricket for an interview".

Any comments can come back to me. I will send out everyone's comments before the meeting next week.

Thank you for your time,

Wendy

Wendy Hansbury MPH, RS

Pronouns: she/her/hers ([why pronouns matter](#))

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