

From adpalmer@mansfieldma.com
To mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org
Date Wed, 19 Feb 2025 12:34:45 +0000
Subject RE: touching base

Good morning, Maureen,

I checked with the Chair on which date works best. She might have a conflict with the March date set so she's asking if you could come to our April BOH meeting on April 10th. It's 7pm here in Town Hall. I definitely think in-person is more effective but we do have the option for remote participation so please let me know if you'd like me to set that up. Then maybe more from your group could attend.

It is always helpful to hear from cities and towns who have been through it and the challenges they faced. None of us expect the discussion will go unnoticed but I'm a fan of planning for the worst and hoping for the best.

Thanks so much for the work you are doing around this.

Best,

Amy

Amy Donovan-Palmer, MPH RS (she/her/hers)

Health Director/Agent | Health Department

Town of Mansfield | Town Hall |

6 Park Row | Mansfield, MA 02048

p: 508.261.7366 | f: 508.261.7425 |

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:50 PM
To: Amy Donovan-Palmer <adpalmer@mansfieldma.com>
Subject: RE: touching base

Well, Channel 7! There is a lot of interest, for sure.

If there had been a Zoom option I'm sure you would have seen the other players I mentioned.

I would love to join your meeting in-person. I am available both dates you mentioned.

The birthday dinner was fun. Thanks for asking. We went to Kowloon, an iconic North Shore restaurant that will be closing its doors after seventy or so years. It's owned by the Wong family. Donald Wong is a long-time State Rep who represents Wakefield and Lynnfield. We wanted the youngest family members to experience it.

Thanks for the update. I'm looking forward to coming to Mansfield!

From: Amy Donovan-Palmer <adpalmer@mansfieldma.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:35 PM

To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>

Subject: RE: touching base

The meeting was pretty uneventful although Channel 7 was there recording the part about tobacco.

The Board decided to do some more research on nicotine pouches so it will be a couple more months before anything is in place.

I offered Nicotine Free Generation Task Team to come and speak to the Board. They said they would like that. The next couple of meetings are March 13th at 7pm and April 10th at 7pm. You can come in person or remote but if it's remote, we just need to set it up beforehand. Let me know what you think.

Thanks for your help and I hope you enjoyed your family party. 😊

Amy Donovan-Palmer, MPH RS (she/her/hers)

Health Director/Agent | Health Department

Town of Mansfield | Town Hall |

6 Park Row | Mansfield, MA 02048

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:20 PM

To: Amy Donovan-Palmer <adpalmer@mansfieldma.com>

Subject: RE: touching base

That was quick. Thanks!

The age 25 restriction has been discussed but it doesn't de-normalize tobacco use nor does it start us on the path to finally eradicate nicotine related disease and death.

Glad to hear your Board is meeting to update regs. Sometimes it's easier to separate the two – update regs at one meeting which is pretty straightforward as it's basically adding some new definitions, strengthening old definitions, and adding in flavor ban, ID All, and the new fine structure. But some Boards got bogged down with all those changes and it muddies the water for them for NFG. Doing NFG at another meeting may be wise. Introduce the idea tonight and suggest adding it to an upcoming meeting agenda.

A Nic pouch restriction of some kind seems like a good idea and a few other municipalities are doing it but again that only restricts nic pouches in some way and doesn't get at new products being developed by Big Tobacco as we speak.

Or even those we now find – Bic pens that are also vapes, and highlighters that are also vapes. And the vape devices that have an LED screen that tells you how many puffs you have left to trigger you to go buy another one or get a refill. Just like in your car. These are on store shelves right now. It's really endless.

Yes, please let me know. And again, reach out with any questions. Or any thoughts you have about how best to provide education/information to your board. Our MA NFG task team would be happy to meet with your board – virtually or in-person – to share information. How NFG works. Why we think it's such a good public health policy. Its legality. As well as an update on municipalities with NFG.

By the way, if “tobacco regulations” appears in your BOH meeting posting don’t be surprised if members of the opposition show up. They watch BOH agendas closely. Peter Brennan from NECSEMA. Stephen Helfer from Cambridge Citizens for Smokers Rights. Et al.

They will raise their “hands” and try to speak. You don’t have to let them of course once your meeting starts and you have already done public participation. They can really put a spoke in the wheel.

I’ll let some of my colleagues know you are meeting tonight. (I have a family birthday dinner, or I’d hop on myself.)

We do see misstatements from the opposition. They’ll say things like, “The FDA approved nicotine pouches because they help people quit smoking.” The truth is that the FDA approved retail sales of Zyn. The FDA did not approve Zyn as an NRT – a nicotine replacement therapy. Big difference but they will try that because it plays well. They will talk about freedom of choice. Etc. We really don’t want them to poison the well. They can speak at a public hearing if you end up holding one down the road.

Didn’t mean to make this such a long email. Thanks for reading.

Good luck tonight.

Maureen

From: Amy Donovan-Palmer <adpalmer@mansfieldma.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:53 PM

To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>

Subject: RE: touching base

Hello Maureen,

Perfect timing... tonight, the BOH will be discussing revising the regulations. This is mostly to comply with state laws around fining but there is the possibility of restricting the sale of nicotine pouches.

I will definitely bring NFG up at tonight's meeting to start the conversation with the BOH. We have 2 new members so I am unsure on how they stand on anything public health related.

After our conversation last fall, I was wondering if anybody considered raising the age to 25 rather than 21 since it seems like the science shows brain development continues until around that age. It would decrease access without maybe causing such outrage. Even the possibility of restriction pouches has caused several people to reach out to me, the select board, and the TM.

I'll let you know how the meeting goes.

Amy

Amy Donovan-Palmer, MPH RS (she/her/hers)

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From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:04 PM

To: Amy Donovan-Palmer <adpalmer@mansfieldma.com>

Subject: touching base

Hi Amy,

I've been meaning to reach out since I met you at the MHOA conference last fall.

A lot has happened since we chatted. Three municipalities (Chelsea, Belchertown and Needham) all passed an NFG BOH regulation in late December; Newton passed a city ordinance in January; and Pelham passed a resolution, also in January. We're up to fourteen cities and towns. And growing.

A bill has been filed in the State House. Senator Lewis on the Senate side and State Rep Vitola on the House side. A colleague and I met with Senator John Keenan earlier this week. Spreading the word. Sharing information about the tobacco industry's trendy new products, as well as retail store violations, and youth use.

We're fielding lots of inquiries from the press and receiving calls/emails from interested parties across the state.

We had a good meeting in North Reading Tuesday night, as well as in Natick Monday night, and Amherst last Thursday night. Clearly there is momentum.

Wanted to touch base with you to see if there is any interest in Mansfield. I know you said you live in Plymouth and don't see anything happening there.

Let me know if I can provide any information about NFG, or if there is anyone you think we should reach out to. We have a small but mighty crew of subject matter experts who are ready, willing and able to go anywhere and talk to anyone: Mark Gottlieb from NUPHAI, Kate Silbaugh from BU School of Law, Anthony Ishak from MGH, to name a few.

Please let me know how we can help.

Hope all is well down your way. We're experiencing a pretty big snow melt up here.

Best regards,

Maureen

Cell; 781-979-4158

Maureen Buzby

Regional Tobacco Prevention Program

562 Main Street

Melrose, MA 02176

781-979-4158

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