

April 27, 2025

Dear Janet and Bob,

Nice to see you last evening – as always. A chance to catch up, share stories, to laugh, reminisce, and most importantly, to stay in touch!

Unless things change, I'll be heading out to Hopkinton on Wednesday, May 14 for a 6:45 PM Board of Health meeting at Hopkinton Town Hall. If all goes well, I'll come out earlier in the day and stop in for a quick visit. If time and our respective schedules permit, I would love to see "The Farm". And Bruno. Oh, and the new bathroom too!

I've enclosed a one-page description of the tobacco prevention policy I've been working on for the past two years. I've included an FAQ as well. So far fifteen MA municipalities have adopted NFG. There are now 500,000 MA residents living in a municipality with an NFG policy. Many other communities are in some phase of consideration: Dover, Natick, Northampton, Lee, Lennox, Stockbridge, and others. An NFG bill has been filed in both the Mass House and the Senate.

We need more cities and towns to take up this important public health policy which can save thousands of lives in this state alone and millions in health care costs. When there is critical mass the state legislature is more likely to pass a state-wide bill - - as they did with smoke-free workplace law twenty years ago and with the flavor ban more recently.

Two ways you can help. One, call or email your local BOH (regional BOH) and ask if they are considering this policy. And two, if you know someone in town government (especially the Health Director or a member of the Board of Health) make an introduction. It's easy. You can just write an email to whoever and say something like:

"I recently learned about Nicotine Free Generation, a tobacco prevention policy that's been adopted in several Massachusetts communities and wondered if it's being considered here. I've copied my friend Maureen Buzby, who is helping to spread the word throughout the state and, in fact, recently met with the Hopkinton Board of Health. If you have any questions or would like to learn more please reach out to Maureen." And cc me on the email: mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org

If either of you are interested in learning more we have lots more information than the two documents I enclosed. I can absolutely drown you in data, peer reviewed articles, etc. Just let me know. ☺

By the way, no pressure! We could call municipalities but it's easier to have some kind of intro from a local resident. When residents speak up town officials are much more apt to give the issue some consideration. Appreciate whatever you feel comfortable doing. Again, no pressure.

Best,