

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Sent: Jan 03, 2025 19:28:42.000000000 UTC
Subject: RE: MA NFG Task Force - Pittsfield update
To: Silbaugh, Katharine <silbaugh@bu.edu>

It might not hurt to have you on standby, but my understanding is they are not going to take comments from the “audience” as a way to stick to just the agenda items/schedule. Bobbie wants to avoid the public comments that have been happening elsewhere even when the meeting is not a public hearing.

Yes, Pittsfield would be great to have. Bobbie would like to see the five largest communities out there go at the same time. I think we need to figure out who they are and see what we can do to light a fire under the other four. She feels that Pittsfield is more apt to move forward if they know they have local company. She knows municipal leaders are going to say, Well, Pittsfield residents can just go a mile in any direction and get their products.

I would love to be able to say we have Kate Silbaugh from Brookline, the community with the most experience, and Ken from Belchertown...

I won't be able to see who else is on the call until they make me a speaker.

From: Silbaugh, Katharine <silbaugh@bu.edu>

Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 2:19 PM

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

Subject: Re: MA NFG Task Force - Pittsfield update

Would anything be helpful from me or us or Ken here? Pittsfield would be a fantastic addition.

Sent from a handheld device

On Jan 3, 2025, at 1:16 PM, Buzby, Maureen
<mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org> wrote:

Hi all,

I'm sharing this in advance of our next call so anyone who cannot participate on the call next week will be privy to this info and also to save time in the event that we have other important agenda items to discuss.

I had a good conversation yesterday with Bobbie (Roberta) Orsi, Chair of the Pittsfield BOH. She is very, very interested in NFG. The meeting next week will be her Board's first discussion of NFG. She said it's a good board with one NP, two physicians, a nurse, and one housing person.

Five-member Board, she's the nurse. I sent her the one-pager, the FAQ, and the pediatrician's letter. She read them all. She's comfortable with the policy.

I explained how some of the other initial or informational meetings have gone and how they have sometimes been hi-jacked by the opposition. She is prepared. I will be on the agenda as a guest speaker. Jim Wilusz will go first. Jim is the HD for several communities out in Western MA and also a long-time Tobacco Program manager. He will be discussing another tobacco policy they are interested in. Then I will introduce NFG. I will have about five minutes followed by time for questions.

She told me Jim is not totally onboard yet, which I knew from my conversation with him. But Jim did connect Bobbie and me.

She also said she has received a call from one city councilor who told her not to adopt this regulation.

She said that they have received many emails in opposition – and they haven't even had it on an agenda yet. I explained the origin of all those robo emails.

She said addressing municipal leaders' concerns will be important. That they tend to be very retailer friendly.

She wants me to briefly explain how/why we did this policy in my region and especially how we engaged the community.

“See” you next week.

Maureen

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