

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

Sent: Jun 23, 2025 21:31:56.000000000 UTC

Subject: RE: Proposed Needham BoH Agenda on June 20th, 2025

To: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>; Kate Silbaugh <kbsilbaugh@gmail.com>; Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Mark Gottlieb <mark@phai.org>; Isabel Tashie <isabeltashie@gmail.com>

That's terrific. Thank you, Ken.

From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 5:29 PM
To: Kate Silbaugh <kbsilbaugh@gmail.com>; Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; Mark Gottlieb <mark@phai.org>; Isabel Tashie <isabeltashie@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Needham BoH Agenda on June 20th, 2025

Sometimes testifying on Zoom can have an effect.

They already approved NFG, but it's good to move them on pouches.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sainath Palani <spalani@needhamma.gov>
Date: Mon, Jun 23, 2025 at 4:58 PM
Subject: RE: Proposed Needham BoH Agenda on June 20th, 2025
To: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>, Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>

Hi Ken,

Thanks so much for attending our Board of Health meeting on Friday! Your comments really helped swing the positions of at least two board members who held stances against regulating the product and when you spoke about how users can use more than one pouch at once and thus restricting dosage would not do anything other than make it more expensive to consume the same amount of nicotine and spoke to the lack of blow black after from the public in Belchertown. I think they also wanted to hear from other communities that passed this as few others in this area are even close to regulating the pouches when we asked around. Most of the other communities that have passed this have adult only retailers so they were hesitant to do the same.

Anyways, our board is now leaning towards a full restriction in Needham per what they discussed and will continue the public hearing until our August meeting where we will propose a new red line draft and we will hopefully join Belchertown on restricting the pouches all together.

Sai

From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 7:20 PM
To: Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; Sainath Palani <spalani@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Re: Proposed Needham BoH Agenda on June 20th, 2025

The agenda says the meeting is set for June 10th (two days ago), but I think it should read June 20th. I will be happy to appear on the Zoom if, in fact, it is in the future and not the past. □

BTW, If the date is wrong on the posting, it probably violates the Open Meeting Law, so that needs to be resolved in time.

On Thu, Jun 12, 2025 at 7:11 PM Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com> wrote:

Hi Ken please see Sai's email below.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sainath Palani <spalani@needhamma.gov>
Date: June 12, 2025 at 5:09:52 PM EDT
To: "Crete, Andrea" <acrete@townofware.com>
Subject: Proposed Needham BoH Agenda on June 20th, 2025

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Hi Andrea,

If Ken from Belchertown is able to provide public comment (3 minutes maximum) in favor of restricting the pouches or at least why they voted to restrict it and how it's been going since restricting the product that would be super helpful. We believe two of our members want to restrict it while the other 3 do not and want to just restrict dosing.

The link to join the meeting is embedded in the agenda. If he wants to give comment at the start of the meeting he can if he writes to us beforehand otherwise or chair will open up a public hearing period likely around 9:20am and he would just need to raise his virtual hand.

There aren't many towns without adult only retails stores restricting the pouches and most of the towns around here are part of a singular tobacco coalition and those member towns/coalition are not close to regulating the pouches which makes our board hesitant to take action. We are definitely afraid that the pouches will be the next vape product and get the youth hooked on.

Sai Palani, MPH
Environmental Health Agent
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