

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Sent: Apr 01, 2025 17:23:11.000000000 UTC
Subject: RE: a few updates and intro to a new team member
To: Ginny Chadwick <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu>
Cc: Carroll, Bonny <bcarroll@somervillema.gov>

Bonny said it's really just an initial meeting. It's her opportunity to meet the new board members and she will briefly mention NFG.
I copied Bonny so she can correct me or add to what I just said. 😊

From: Ginny Chadwick <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:57 AM
To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Subject: Re: a few updates and intro to a new team member

Excellent update Maureen. Do we need folks in Amherst on 4/3? I also have Winthrop on my schedule for 4/8. I moved to East Boston 3/1 (was not going to disclose that much before the Somerville hearing) and so its an easy hop over for me.

Ginny Chadwick, MPH, MA
She/Her/Hers
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Cell: (573)999-2641

On Mar 28, 2025, at 10:37 AM, Buzby, Maureen
<mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org> wrote:

Hi all,
First, I want to introduce you Dr. Ross Merkin, Oncologist, MGB Head and Neck Cancer Center. Dr. Merkin is interested in giving back to the community and is interested in the work we are doing. Please add Dr. Merkin to any MA NFG Team emails you send out.

Second, I'm cutting and pasting the following update from Heather Warner:

Hi All,

A couple of updates based on conversations with BoH in WMass:
South Hadley's next meeting is April 8th. I had a text exchange with Karen Walsh Pio, a board member, asking if she thought SHadley had interest and ability to pass NFG. She mentioned Ken coming to the meeting and said the initial discussion was positive and that she supports it and it sounded to her like Sharon Hart the health director was supportive. I asked if I could come to the April 8th meeting and she said she could put me on the agenda for April

8th BUT wanted to check with other board members because she felt they got the information they needed from Ken and David G. Karen said that Sharon reached out to Jake Oliveira their senator to see if they didn't need to pass anything because the state would pass it? Jake was honest and said not to hold their breath - in part because Maura Healey is seeking re-election. She asked if I would be adding anything different than Ken and David. I said I wondered if there was anything more needed to help the board decide. She said SHadley was in the process of hiring a new prevention Coalition Coordinator and wants to wait until they are on board to include them in the discussion and process. In the end, she said they will put NFG on the April 8th agenda...So I will plan to go even if I am not invited per se.

Amherst BOH meeting is Monday, April 3rd

I will be in Boston 4/3 for ENUFF DAY. Not sure I can get back in time or if I can possibly join in the car while driving.

Northampton BOH met Thursday, March 20th

No nicotine on the agenda--but there was nitrous oxide; kratom and Delta 8. I was not able to go for public comment.

Ware (BoH meeting met March 16 at 6:30) NOT NFG but they met because they were planning to reduce their regulation to state only regs. This needed to be stopped! Merridith and I attended. Merridith was great and in the end they are only proposing to eliminate higher pricing on little cigars. The hearing will be at their next regular BoH metg. Heather is working to get some young people to attend.

Westfield I had a long conversation with the Health Director and she is overwhelmed by other BOH issues. I can't find my notes but we talked for a good 20 minutes. Basically she said her board members often need to hear things a few times before they feel ready to act, and they can be a hard sell.

Leverett April 7th? [first Monday]

I have a conflict the evening of April 7.

Also, I spoke with **Devin Streeter, My counterpart**

in Hampden County and he's interested in being involved--there are now three 84 chapters in Springfield that Devin is in touch with. Devin's email is: dstreeter@gandaracenter.org. I can loop him in when there is a Hampden County community.

Thanks! Heather

Third, my own update. We may talk about some of these municipalities at Monday's MA NFG Team meeting but in case we don't get to all, as well as for those of you who won't be able to attend Monday's Zoom meeting. Also as a review for Dr. Merkin, Rory Milsark, and any other newer team members.

Municipalities that have passed a TFG or NFG policy whether by by-law, City Ordinance, resolution, or Board of Health regulation: Belchertown, Brookline, Chelsea, Concord, Malden, Manchester,

Melrose, Needham, Newton, Pelham, Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield, Winchester, and then Somerville just this past week. A total of fifteen.

There are now 500,000 Massachusetts residents living in a municipality that has adopted an NFG policy.

I've presented to **Belmont** and **Lexington** but they got bogged down with all the changes they need to make to old tobacco regs just to synch up with state law. NFG got lost in the process. I fully expect NFG to come back up in each of these communities especially since Somerville has now adopted the policy. Somerville may influence many other nearby communities. Lexington's Health Director was out on medical leave and I think that may have additionally slowed things down. I'll reach back out to her. **Arlington** finally has a new Health Director. We'll let her get her feet wet and then approach her.

Bedford has little or no interest at this time.

I'll be presenting (virtually) to **Lee, Lennox, and Stockbridge** April 9th.

I'm presenting (in-person) to **Mansfield** April 10th.

I presented to **Buckland** BOH last week.

I presented to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance two weeks ago. BPHA, as you no doubt know, is an alliance of 24 cities and towns in the Berkshires.

I'm waiting to hear back from the Colin

Sykes, **Lanesborough** Health Agent, who has indicated interest in learning more about NFG. This is important because you may remember that when I presented to the Pittsfield Board they wanted to make sure they were not alone and that other municipalities in their alliance would be doing NFG at the same time.

Tri-town Council is interested (**Middleton, Topsfield, Boxford**). I've shared a lot of material with Tri-Town Council ED Meredith Shaw. Joyce Redford mentioned just this week that **Rockport** is interested, and she will be doing an NFG intro at their next board meeting.

The HD (Shaun McAuliffe) in **Hopkinton** is interested. He and I are supposed to connect soon.

Cambridge is looking to change their tobacco regulations from a city ordinance to a health regulation. Partly in preparation for NFG.

Medford tabled NFG after their public hearing back in 2024. They were waiting to see what Somerville did. NFG may come back up though I did hear from a store manager in Medford that, "Medford will never pass NFG". When I asked her why she said, "Smokers on the Board".

I intentionally included Kate Silbauhg's notes from our last meeting to help inform newer members to this group.

If anyone else has specific city/town updates please feel free to add them to this email thread so that we will all be able to reference them as needed at this coming Monday night's meeting.

Sorry for the length of this email. Have a great weekend. "See" you Monday.
Maureen

From: Silbaugh, Katharine <silbaugh@bu.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 7:47 PM
To: kenelstein@gmail.com; Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; kbsilbaugh@gmail.com; jwinickoff@mgm.harvard.edu; bscarroll@somervillema.gov; tlsavage@mgm.harvard.edu; ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu; jlmacdonald@mgb.org; stoverd@mskcc.org; zachary.rich@bmc.org; sreiss@brooklinema.gov; mark@phai.org; Chui, Anthony <achui@cityofmelrose.org>; aishakpharmd@yahoo.com; drsawickiboh@gmail.com; mchouhms@gmail.com; IsabelTashie@gmail.com; HWarner@collaborative.org; khoag@belchertownps.org; Sharon.Levy@childrens.harvard.edu; chakilamshresta@gmail.com
Subject: March 31 and notes

Next meeting Monday March 31

6:15 <https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/95511485863?pwd=dRAL3epqVeilXjrwMafdFzHXpX1z5z.1>
[bostonu.zoom.us]

Somerville hearing 3/20 6:00 PM: all hands testimony.

Please go to this page and under email info add cell phone number so that we can have a WhatsApp thread during the meeting: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14HELEeY9WL6iWvILpM4O3v6_TR3YVD4WdBrNge6lbCk/edit?gid=883680650#gid=883680650 [docs.google.com]

List of towns with POSSIBLE entryways:

- North Reading
- Topsfield
- Middleton
- Boxford

(these are via Amy Luckiewicz)

- Hopkinton
- Framingham

(via Pari/Maureen)

- Saugus
- Gloucester
- Danvers

(via Joyce/Maureen)

- Medford

(Maureen will ask to get it back on agenda when Somerville passes)

- Arlington
- Belmont
- Everett
- Winthrop
- Cambridge

(will get the Somerville news)

- Dover

(April 7 on agenda)

- Natick

(this is Shresta's territory, 84 chapter may go to upcoming public comment to ask them to put NFG on agenda, also Chris Banthan's hometown)

- **Berkshire Health Alliance in Western MA 26 towns**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mxd4hfNLR3MRzCLKGnMhNJxpjDaY-cyP/view> [drive.google.com]

This is Zach's talk at Grayken

Attached are my meeting notes, FWIW

Mark is working on a calendar

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