

From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>

Sent: May 18, 2025 12:06:16.000000000 UTC

Subject: Re: Bellingham

To: Kate Silbaugh <kbsilbaugh@gmail.com>

Cc: mark@phai.org <mark@phai.org>; Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; anthony ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>

In general, "affect" is the verb and "effect" is the noun, so my latest version was grammatically correct. There are exceptions, unrelated to this, in which "affect" also serves as a noun.

Nevertheless, in view of our creed of "First of all, do no harm", I am open to alternatives. Perhaps: substitute "impact" for "affect":

- It does not impact current tobacco users;
- It does not impact prescription drugs;

On Sun, May 18, 2025 at 7:34AM Kate Silbaugh <kbsilbaugh@gmail.com> wrote:

Should it be effect instead of affect

On Fri, May 16, 2025 at 5:55 PM Mark Gottlieb <mark@phaionline.org> wrote:

I will create the page this weekend, Ken.

--Mark Gottlieb, PHAI Please excuse mobile text errors

On Fri, May 16, 2025 at 5:01 PM Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com> wrote:

The good news is that Bellingham ordered and received the voter lists I had requested. She asked me a question about the format, which I answered immediately, but apparently will not receive them today. Most likely she got tied up and forgot.

This is okay because I do not intend for them to be printed and mailed before next Tuesday.

Attached is the latest draft, which deletes the reference to the Board of Health. There was a question about including it, and in politics as in medicine, "First of all, do no harm."

(These are real Bellingham addresses, but not from the lists.)

Mark: The link does not seem to work. Is it spelled correctly on the postcard?

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 2:10 PM Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com> wrote:

Most recent draft attached.

Separately, we should send **real letters** to MDs and other health care professionals who live or work in Bellingham. I could find only one practice specifically within the town. Does anyone know of an available database? (All towns have an annual census that includes occupations. I have been able to get that as a spreadsheet in Belchertown. This is where a supporter in Bellingham could be really helpful.)

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 12:25 PM Mark Gottlieb <mark@phaionline.org> wrote:

Q1 - The Board certainly sponsored it. Q2 - See attached with new photo.

--

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On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 11:59 AM Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com> wrote:
Attached is a current draft. Of course, we still need the addresses.

Q1: The TM Warrant indicates it was introduced by the Board of Health. Did they **endorse** it or merely move it along? (Either way, I will include it in the postcard.)

Q2: The photo is terrific, but would there be a better one for Bellingham?

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Separately, we should send **real letters** to MDs and other health care professionals who live or work in Bellingham. I could find only one practice specifically within the town. Does anyone know of an available database? (All towns have an annual census that includes occupations. I have been able to get that as a spreadsheet in Belchertown. This is where a supporter in Bellingham could be really helpful.)

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 11:22 AM Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org> wrote:

Nice work Ken and Mark. I too am happy to contribute to mailing.

From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 7:22 AM
To: anthony ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>
Cc: Mark Gottlieb <mark@phaionline.org>; Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; Kate Silbaugh <kbsilbaugh@gmail.com>; Mark Gottlieb <mark@phai.org>; Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>
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I made a request for lists of the 2024 Local Election voters, the 2023 Local Election voters, and the 2024 Presidential Primary voters. I use these to find likely voters,

including Unenrolled voters who voted in the Democratic primary. (I call them "closet Democrats".)

There were 1,768 voters in their 2024 Town Election, and 2,483 Presidential Primary voters (1,423 Dems and 2,060 Republicans, plus about 50 Libertarians.) In November, Harris beat Trump by a hair, meaning Bellingham is far from the blue average of Massachusetts. (Not that we're getting solid support from the bluest towns like Northampton and Amherst.)

Please provide a "short blurb". I have attached my most recent card for a Belchertown Select Board candidate, just to show size restrictions. Mostly we just want these people to show up. (Are QR codes actually useful for ordinary voters, or just those who already have an opinion?)

--Ken

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 4:16 AM anthony ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thanks for Mark and Ken for the information. My advice would be to ask the Town Clerk for the frequent voter roll for the last 3 years. We could then narrow it to those that have voted either at Local elections or Town Meeting as high propensity voters and send them a small card. It could have a very short blurb with a QR code to the PHAI site. Their election is 6/3 so likely the information is readily available and has already been requested. You might consider a FOI request in addition to emailing the Town Clerk since this would also force a timeline.

Happy to help

Anthony

Sent on the go

On May 14, 2025, at 11:15 PM, Mark Gottlieb
<mark@phaionline.org> wrote:

They had a q&a meeting on NFG on March 4. This was the result:

TOBACCO BYLAW Informational MEETING

Agent Labonte stated that this meeting is regarding an upcoming bylaw. This meeting is strictly for questions and answers. There will be no action taken.

Mr. Gilberti read the proposed section 202.5 (d) into the record.

There were many tobacco retailers in attendance. Their main concern was if other abutting towns did not make this bylaw, then the Bellingham retailers could lose a lot of sales. Their current clients would not just buy the tobacco elsewhere, they would buy their alcohol, bread, etc. at that same place for convenience. It could have a big impact on their revenue.

Agent Labonte stated he knew of 2 towns that were in the process of putting this bylaw forward. There are 12-15 towns that are putting this in as a Board of Health Regulation. It is not about attacking businesses, it is about the health of the residents.

The Board stated they are implementing this for health reasons for all of Bellingham. They are transparent and did not want the retailers to feel blind-sided when this came before the Town Meeting in May. The Board Members are all in agreement they want this put in place. They explained it would take approximately 25 years before there were no tobacco sales. It is a gradual process.

The Board suggested to the retailers that they can put together something in writing for the Town Meeting. They would be able to read it to the other residents in attendance. They could also invite their own customers to attend. A majority vote will decide the outcome.

They discussed the second change in the Bylaw Section 202.5 (a). This pertains to the issuance of tobacco permits. The Board will not issue any tobacco permits to first time applicants. Once a business closes their tobacco permit is no longer valid or available. If a business is sold, then the tobacco permit can go with it.

The Board Members stated their goal is to end all smoking and smoking products in Bellingham.

-

Here is the Warrant for May 28:

ARTICLE 19. GENERAL BYLAW AMENDMENT -TOBACCO CONTROL

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter 202 entitled "Tobacco Control", all as set forth in the similarly titled documents on file with the Town Clerk, or act or do anything related thereto.

I fear that this will be a tough crowd and that the retailers will be well-represented. The Board, which sounds like it would like to move ahead, said in the minutes of another meeting that if it is rejected at Town Meeting, they can still approve the amended regulation. But I think that would be politically difficult.

Ken - If you think we can communicate our message on a card, PHAI will reimburse you for the balance.

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From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 9:31 PM
To: Maureen Buzby <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Cc: Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Kate Silbaugh <kbsilbaugh@gmail.com>; Mark Gottlieb <mark@phai.org>; Sigalle

Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>

Subject: Bellingham

Maureen,

I see on our Google Sheets that Bellingham will be considering NFG at their Town Meeting on May 28th.

First, I am wondering whether this is still accurate.

Second, if so, I am wondering whether we can run a campaign during the next two weeks.

- Since their election does not have anyone running for an "elective" TM, I assume it is an open town meeting, which is confirmed by Wikipedia. We could do a mailing to a selected list of people who actually show up for TM in Bellingham. I would need to get their names and addresses, and mail it by next Monday. My cheapest postcard mailings cost about 56 cents each, so a mailing of 1000 households would cost about \$560. I would start with the first \$100 contribution. We need people on the ground to support this, both logistically and by endorsement.
- We could also show up with flyers or even banners.
- Perhaps, they would allow one of our superstars to speak; it would need a prior conversation with their Town Moderator.

Please RSVP, and perhaps we can get this started.

--Ken

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