

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

Sent: Jan 05, 2025 00:57:15.000000000 UTC

Subject: Re: MA NFG Task Force - Wellfleet

To: Mark Gottlieb <mark@phaionline.org>

Cc: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>; Maureen Buzby <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Bonny Carroll <bcarroll@somervillema.gov>; drsawickiboh@gmail.com <drsawickiboh@gmail.com>; Ginny Chadwick <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu>; Anthony Chui <achui@cityofmelrose.org>; Jeanne L. MacDonald <jlmacdonald@mgb.org>; mark@phaionline.org <mark@phaionline.org>; Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>; Diane Stover-pepe <stoverd@mskcc.org>; WinickoffJonathan P. MD MPH <JWINICKOFF@mgh.harvard.edu>; zachary.rich@bmc.org <zachary.rich@bmc.org>; Michael Chou <mchou@genetics.med.harvard.edu>

Our friend Jon Berrick just published a toolkit on NFG. Note he's in Australia and it's internationally focused. It's possible that could help with Boards? The sense that this is coming?



Sent from a handheld device

On Jan 4, 2025, at 3:22 PM, Mark Gottlieb <mark@phaionline.org> wrote:

Wellfleet is "amending" its tobacco regulation and meeting about it on January 22 at 5:30 at [this](#) Zoom link.

Remarkably, the only [amendments](#) to the regs that are so far proposed are to replace the phrase "Board of Health" with the word "Board" throughout.

I wonder if anyone should be reaching out to them? Anyone have any leads on this board?

From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 9:42 AM
To: Silbaugh, Katharine <silbaugh@bu.edu>
Cc: Maureen Buzby <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; Mark Gottlieb <mark@phaionline.org>; Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Bonny Carroll <bcarroll@somervillema.gov>; drsawickiboh@gmail.com <drsawickiboh@gmail.com>; Ginny Chadwick <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu>; Anthony Chui <achui@cityofmelrose.org>; Jeanne L. MacDonald <jlmacdonald@mgb.org>; mark@phai.org <mark@phai.org>; Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>; Diane Stover-pepe <stoverd@mskcc.org>; Winickoff Jonathan P. MD MPH <JWINICKOFF@mgh.harvard.edu>; zachary.rich@bmc.org <zachary.rich@bmc.org>; Michael Chou <mchou@genetics.med.harvard.edu>
Subject: Re: MA NFG Task Force - Pittsfield update

Of course I will defer to Maureen. Town and city boards do need to be comfortable with this, since it will be their policy to enforce going forward.

I do have leads in some other towns. I am scheduled for a first appearance in neighboring Pelham on Thursday. I also was told that we may get support in neighboring Ludlow in Hampden county (population 20,000). For every victory we get in small towns, the bigger cities will begin to pay more attention. Simultaneously, the legislators representing these communities are generally aware of the local politics. Ultimately, we want the legislators to carry NFG across the finish line.

On Sat, Jan 4, 2025 at 9:14AM Silbaugh, Katharine <silbaugh@bu.edu> wrote:
Wow I love the acorn/rose bush story. Amazing.

One possible change with initial discussions now is that BOHs and city councilors have been hit by lobbying already from industry. You want them to start w good information—to be where Somerville is before they go through this.

Sometimes too when they're unfamiliar they puzzle things out in those discussions unproductively—I would say Manchester was a bit like that. They were looking at it for the first time, they weren't schooled in it, and they wandered around a lot of ideas about it that could have gone quickly if they were more familiar. They likely would have arrived at no but for one board member who had introduced it and did understand it completely.

Maureen is already connected, and I think that's so valuable. It seems to me the most productive thing could be one on one contact prior to the first discussion. If Ken had anyone he can call out there to talk it through in advance, maybe reaching out as a fellow BOH member in the central/western "neighborhood", I wonder if that would be productive?

Sent from a handheld device

On Jan 3, 2025, at 9:58 PM, Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com> wrote:

I really do not understand the problem with restricting nicotine pouches. In Belchertown, on the same night, we approved NFG and also approved a restriction (actually a total ban) on pouches. No one seems to have thought there

was a conflict. The local dealers were more concerned about pouches, but that can vary.

NFG will have a negligible effect on total sales in the first years, but a huge effect long term. Nicotine pouches are very popular now with under 21s, so prohibiting it will likely have a larger effect short term. I compare NFG to planting an acorn -- not much at first but big in decades -- with planting a rose bush -- good the first year but never dominating a landscape. There is enough room in our garden for both.

I suppose some Boards of Health will vote for one and think they are doing enough. They are wrong. They need to do both. And neither NFG nor restrictions on pouches is nearly sufficient to give our kids the long, healthy lives they deserve. And we also need to see much better enforcement of current laws.

On Fri, Jan 3, 2025 at 8:28 PM Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org> wrote:

I'll touch base with Jim Wilusz to find out what the "other" tobacco policy is. Hope it's not nicotine pouch restriction. That seems to derail NFG.

Ken, not sure about in-person attendance. Bobbie mentioned more than once that this was their "initial" meeting. Meant to introduce NFG to Board members but not to have a public discussion. She really wants to avoid having members of the audience chiming in. That will happen if and when they go to a public hearing.

I wonder if attending virtually would be best. If a question comes up that I can't answer or feel you or Kate could answer better maybe I could say, I believe so and so is on Zoom and he/she is the real expert..." Something like that.

I really want to respect the admonition that they want no one other than those on the agenda speaking.

I also want to respect the time constraints.

Bobbie asked me to focus on why we decided to pursue NFG in my area and how we rolled it out. I think this meeting will be quite a bit different from the Somerville meeting where they were already interested and primed to learn more about NFG and to ask very thoughtful questions.

All that said, I am often wrong so go with your gut.

Maureen

From: Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 4:38 PM

To: Mark Gottlieb <mark@phaionline.org>
Cc: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>; Silbaugh, Katharine <silbaugh@bu.edu>; Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Bonny Carroll <bcarroll@somervillema.gov>; drsawickiboh@gmail.com; Ginny Chadwick <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu>; Chui, Anthony <achui@cityofmelrose.org>; Jeanne L. MacDonald <jlmacdonald@mgb.org>; mark@phai.org; Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>; Diane Stover-pepe <stoverd@mskcc.org>; Winickoff Jonathan P. MD MPH <JWINICKOFF@mgh.harvard.edu>; zachary.rich@bmc.org; Michael Chou <mchou@genetics.med.harvard.edu>
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Would it be helpful if I came in person? I expect to go to a BoH meeting in Ashfield (not yet posted for Tuesday) and to one in Pelham (on Thursday).

I don't think Ashfield plans to discuss NFG, but if they let me speak, I will explain our thinking in passing it in Belchertown.

Pelham would be our first town that does not have any retail dealers nor does it have a Tobacco Regulation. We would ask them for support for our efforts, since they would be included in our town-count.

On Fri, Jan 3, 2025 at 2:58 PM Mark Gottlieb <mark@phaionline.org> wrote:

Thanks, Maureen! That's fantastic!

I might just add that, whatever Jim's proposed policy is, it will be synergistic with NFG. Like with T21, the enthusiasm around a promising policy with momentum creates wonderful opportunities to advance a more comprehensive local public health agenda. This is, I think, a key reason why it won't take decades for NFG to make a big difference.

-Mark

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 1:15 PM
To: Silbaugh, Katharine <silbaugh@bu.edu>; Anthony Ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>; Bonny Carroll <bcarroll@somervillema.gov>; drsawickiboh@gmail.com <drsawickiboh@gmail.com>; Ginny Chadwick <ginnychadwick@brandeis.edu>; Chui, Anthony <achui@CityofMelrose.org>; Ken Elstein <kenelstein@gmail.com>; Jeanne L. MacDonald <jlmacdonald@mgb.org>; mark@phai.org <mark@phai.org>; Sigalle Reiss <sreiss@brooklinema.gov>; Diane Stover-pepe <stoverd@mskcc.org>; Winickoff Jonathan P. MD MPH <JWINICKOFF@mgh.harvard.edu>; zachary.rich@bmc.org <zachary.rich@bmc.org>; Michael Chou <mchou@genetics.med.harvard.edu>
Subject: RE: MA NFG Task Force - Pittsfield update

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 hijacked 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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