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Subject: quick re-cap

To: Chui, Anthony <achui@CityofMelrose.org>

We had so much to talk about we ran over and decided to go back to meeting every other week. Next meeting **12/17 6:30**.

Belchertown: Ken Elstien from Belchertown was on our call. He wants to join forces with us after the Belchertown vote. We'll all try to zoom. He said, "submit written testimony by Friday!". We need someone in western MA so great that he's interested in being an advocate. **12/11, 6:30 PM**

Montague: Ken mentioned Montague but I'm not really clear if anything is happening there. They meet 12/11 but he didn't seem to know if it was a meeting or a hearing. He also mentioned Pelham and Amherst (part of the Quabbin Collaborative) but not sure that anything is actually happening there. I don't think so.

We all agree **Needham** vote is essential to get **Newton** and other towns in that region. Needham got tied up on having a sunset clause. And nicotine pouch restriction in the draft reg. (I hate the model reg!)

Meeting: **12/13 at 9:00 AM**. I'll be on my way to the Vineyard.

Chelsea is so critical – we need a diverse community. Important for us to show up in person **12/10, 6:00 PM!!!!!!!**

Somerville: We'll all zoom in but agree we can't take up the board's whole meeting. We have to figure out who is going to speak to what and for how long. Maybe just hit the pushback we've heard they have and then let board members ask questions. Zoom only. **12/9, 6:00 PM**

Belmont: Both Anthony Ishak and I are trying to get back to Belmont.

Anthony has relatives in Belmont. He feels he can get community support.

Newton: Depends on Needham

Lexington: Tied in knots because of having to update old regs. Nothing will happen in the near term. New Tobacco Program manager.

Medford: Didn't even bring it up. If it had come up I would have said lost cause.

Pittsfield: I've been invited to speak with the Board 1/8/25. High, high high smoking rates.

Cambridge: Lipson is interested but Mark G suggested leaving Cambridge alone until we get Somerville.

We discussed 1/1/25 versus 7/1/25 effective date. Ginny C wants 1/1/25 or 1/1/26 but thinks 7/1/25 is too confusing. I disagree.

Concern was expressed that the industry is getting better organized.

We all have concern that while we are happy about the recent State House announcement we don't want it to give municipalities an excuse to hold off on adopting a local NFG reg. We need a better pitch for this.

I encouraged everyone to reach out to TFM and ask what they are doing.

And of course we wish TFK, American Heart, American Lung, and American Cancer would support NFG.

I think that's about it.

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