Outlook

RE: Board of Health Meeting

From Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Date Fri 11/14/2025 1:09 PM
To Provos, Sara <SProvos@yarmouth.ma.us>
Cc Niederberger, Riley <RNiederberger@yarmouth.ma.us>; Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>; Chui, Anthony <achui@CityofMelrose.org>; Grylls, Mark <mgrylls@yarmouth.ma.us>; Hillard Boskey <hillard.boskey@gmail.com>

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Hi Sara,
Thank you so much for the additional guidance. That was our understanding.
This is an **initial update**.
I was sure you all know the rules. Sometimes people in the audience don't so I wanted to let you know what our experience has been as we've presented to other boards – both meetings and hearings.
I'll chat with Barry about prepping for the meeting.
Thank you so much.
Maureen

From: Provos, Sara <SProvos@yarmouth.ma.us>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Cc: Niederberger, Riley <RNiederberger@yarmouth.ma.us>; Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>; Chui, Anthony <achui@CityofMelrose.org>; Grylls, Mark <mgrylls@yarmouth.ma.us>; Hillard Boskey <hillard.boskey@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Board of Health Meeting

Good morning Maureen,
Riley has been including me on the emails and information being shared in preparation for the December 1st Board of Health meeting. I wanted to briefly note that the purpose of the December 1st meeting is simply to provide an **initial update** to the Board members and allow them time to review and digest the information you've provided. We are not yet at the stage of holding a public hearing or responding to public comments on this topic. Our office is familiar with the requirements for Public Hearings, and we will ensure that we follow the guidelines set forth in the MGL when we reach that point.

I would recommend that you, Barry, and the Board Chairman (whom I've cc'd on this email) connect briefly before the meeting to ensure there is a clear, shared understanding of what will be presented. This will be the first of what will likely be several steps on this topic, and the Board

will need time to discuss it. We also want to make sure that communication about this issue, as it evolves, is shared appropriately within the Town.

We look forward to having you join us at the next BOH meeting.

Thank you,
Sara

Sara Provos
Town of Yarmouth
Health Department
508-398-2231 ext. 1241

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 11:08 AM
To: Niederberger, Riley <RNiederberger@yarmouth.ma.us>
Cc: Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>; Chui, Anthony <achui@CityofMelrose.org>
Subject: RE: Board of Health Meeting

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Hi Riley,

Thank you so much for reaching out.

In addition to the material you already have I would propose we provide a brief overview of the legal status of NFG, the number (and list) of municipalities that have already adopted this policy, state legislation status, and an overview of the steps we've taken to gain community support in other cities and towns, as well as pushback we've experienced.

If Board members have not had a chance to read the materials we sent, we could also review what NFG is, how it works, and of course answer questions Borad members may have.

Let us know how much time we have to present and we'll plan accordingly.

Heads up: When NFG or Tobacco regs appear on an BOH agenda the industry often shows up. If it's a public hearing they get to speak of course. For a regular BOH meeting where you have invited subject matter experts

to speak, other meeting attendees don't necessarily have to be given the opportunity to rebut the speaker's presentation. That happens at a public hearing. It's up to the Chair to decide whether to allow it in a meeting where there is a specific agenda/speaker.

A member of the public can speak during public participation but not on a topic that is on the agenda though we have seen industry reps try to use that part of the meeting to voice their objections to the policy.

I realize you probably know all this but wanted to share what we've seen as we've crisscrossed the state to speak at meetings and hearings.

Stephen Helfer from Cambridge Citizens for Smokers' Rights and two of his colleagues, Emily from Cambridge and John from Quincy, will undoubtedly appear on Zoom and use the raised hand emoji to be called upon. Again, that's a decision your Board Chair can make.

Peter Brannan from NECSEMA (a trade association) may appear in person or via zoom. He will also probably send the Board a huge packet of information.

A rep from Nouria may also appear if you have Shell gas stations in Yarmouth.

At hearings we also usually see retailers and distributors. Once in a great while a local smoker or former smoker who wants to make sure his/her rights are not infringed upon. The industry may send flyers to town residents – usually in advance of a hearing, not in advance of a regular BOH meeting because they won't have time to get the fliers out before the meeting. But if the board votes to hold a public hearing, then the industry takes note and will use the time between the meeting and the hearing to do a mailing. An Amherst resident attended a recent hearing with an industry flyer in his hand.

Robo emails have also been received by municipal leaders and others in advance of a hearing.

Sorry for the length of this email. Wanted to share some of what we've experienced so you won't feel ambushed.

Thanks again for your attention to planning for this meeting. We're excited to meet you all. I hope to be able to attend in person but I have a state

audit scheduled for Dec. 1st so it depends on how long that takes. If not in person, then definitely on Zoom.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Thank you!

Maureen

From: Niederberger, Riley <RNiederberger@yarmouth.ma.us>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Cc: Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>
Subject: Board of Health Meeting

Good Morning Maureen,

I hope all is well. I just wanted to touch base regarding the December 1st Board of Health meeting. Our meetings begin at 5:00 p.m and as Barry mentioned, Zoom is an option. I was wondering if there are any specifics you will be focusing on that you would like me to relay to the Board prior to the meeting. I have printed all the materials you emailed over to include in the Board's packets.

Also, once the meeting agenda is finalized I will email you a copy as the Zoom instructions are included on that. Any questions please let me know, I look forward to your presentation.

Thank you and have a nice weekend,

Riley Niederberger

Town of Yarmouth

Health Department

508-398-2231 ext. 1240

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