necsema
New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association

Mansfield — Document Notes

13 DOCUMENTS · PUBLIC RECORDS PRODUCTION · REAL TRUTH MA · RETRIEVED SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

The substantive documents in Mansfield's production, in the order the events occurred: what each one is, what it says, and a link to the file. The complete production is in the document library on the main Mansfield page.

Mansfield considered the birth-date policy twice and adopted neither version, carrying it to January 2026. It did adopt a six-milligram cap on nicotine pouches. Roughly two-thirds of the production by file count is a single form email arriving in opposition.

Nothing is characterized or interpreted. Where a document is ambiguous, it is quoted and left ambiguous.

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1 A webinar registration

Automated registration receipt · July 9, 2024 · Massachusetts Health Officers Association to Amy Donovan-Palmer

> "Nicotine-Free Generation Presenters: Chris Bantin [sic], Program Manager and Senior Staff Attorney at the Public Health Advocacy Institute, and Maureen Maureen [sic] Buzby, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for seven Mystic Valley municipalities"

The only record in the production between a single February 2023 item and February 2025: a free members' webinar on the policy, with continuing education credit offered. The duplicated word is in the original.

2 "Wanted to touch base with you to see if there is any interest"

Email thread, five messages in one day · February 13, 2025 · Maureen Buzby, Regional Tobacco Prevention Program, Melrose, and Amy Donovan-Palmer, Health Director/Agent, Town of Mansfield

> "I offered Nicotine Free Generation Task Team to come and speak to the Board. They said they would like that. The next couple of meetings are March 13th at 7pm and April 10th at 7pm."

Buzby opens at 3:04 p.m. with a count of adopting communities and the offer that "[o]ur MA NFG task team would be happy to meet with your board." The quoted message is Donovan-Palmer's at 8:35 p.m.: the speaking slot and both candidate dates come from the town. Buzby names the opponents she expects and the experts she can supply.

3 Choosing the date

Internal email · February 18–19, 2025 · Amy Donovan-Palmer and Kasia Frenette, Board of Health Chair

> “Morning, let’s push it to April. Based on how Addie’s basketball team does I may have a March conflict with a playoff game in so rather than not be there why don’t we do April.”

The Health Director asks the Chair which month suits; the Chair picks April around a family commitment. The exchange mentions no public notice, hearing or posting requirement.

4 The presentation is fixed for April 10

Email thread · February 19, 2025 · Maureen Buzby and Amy Donovan-Palmer

> “I can do April 10th, and I will come to Mansfield. In-person is definitely best. If it’s okay I’ll bring a packet of info for the Board members. And a few “show and tell” sample products.”

Donovan-Palmer offers a remote option so “maybe more from your group could attend”; Buzby replies that two or three would come if the date suits. Donovan-Palmer writes: “None of us expect the discussion will go unnoticed but I’m a fan of planning for the worst and hoping for the best.”

5 The draft regulations sent to Board members

Email with attached draft · February 19, 2025 · Amy Donovan-Palmer to the Board of Health

> “I did include the definition of oral nicotine pouches but I didn’t add any language around regulating it.”

The attached draft already lists the birth-date provision under “Policies Subject to Local Policy Fines,” with a cutoff of January 1, 2005. The covering message says the only substantive change for the March vote is the fine structure, and that whether to add pouch or birth-date language comes “[a]fter the April meeting.”

6 Splitting the two topics

Email thread · February 28, 2025 · Maureen Buzby and Amy Donovan-Palmer

> “I didn’t want the two to get confusing or overwhelming. The Chair is unsure if she’ll be at the March meeting and wanted to be sure she’s there for NFG.”

Pouches were taken in March with a different outside expert, the birth-date policy held for April. Donovan-Palmer writes that the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards gave her a list of five towns, which she has approached for information, and that “MTCP has asked all of us Tobacco Program Managers to let them know when new tobacco policies get passed.”

7 “None of them are from Mansfield”

Internal email · April 1, 2025 · Amy Donovan-Palmer to Kasia Frenette

> “I’m just frustrated because none of them are from Mansfield. Nobody in Mansfield has reached out.”

About the form emails arriving in opposition. 369 indexed files carry the subject “Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations,” concentrated in March, April and May 2025. They arrive from at least eight message-delivery domains — among them grsdelivery.com, foradvocacy.com, advocacymessages.com, yourconstituent.com and advocatesmessage.com — at addresses of the form Firstname.Lastname followed by nine digits. The message quoted here gives a Waltham address; an earlier one gives Brockton.

8 The April 10 agenda

Board of Health agenda · April 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

> “Nicotine-Free Generation- Maureen Buzby, Regional Tobacco Prevention Program, Melrose”

The item is listed as a discussion, allotted forty minutes together with the pouch restriction and a retailer’s permit request. No item is labelled public hearing; a separate line at 8:55 p.m. reads “Visitor Comments.” No agenda for the March 13 meeting appears in the production.

9 Written testimony from a harm-reduction organization

Written testimony · April 10, 2025 · Lindsey Stroud, Tobacco Harm Reduction 101, sent to undisclosed recipients

> “While commendable, nicotine-free generation bans overlook the historic declines in youth tobacco and nicotine product use in recent years.”

Submitted the day of the meeting, citing the state youth health survey and two federal surveys. The recipient list is suppressed, so it does not show who else received it. The April 10 minutes record neither Stroud as present nor her testimony as read.

10 Board of Health minutes, April 10, 2025

Board of Health minutes · April 10, 2025 · four members present; guests include one smokers’ rights advocate and three retailers

> “Ms. Buzby stated that the program serves 7 communities, 6 of which have adopted Nicotine Free Generation. These 6 communities are the very first Board of Health’s in the world to adopt this kind of regulation.”

No vote on the policy is recorded; the Director was to put it on the next agenda. The minutes give the birth date discussed as January 1, 2004, while the draft circulated in February used 2005. Item IV records a motion to approve “the April 10, 2025 meeting minutes” — the April minutes approving themselves. Minutes for the March 13 meeting, which that motion was presumably meant to cover, are not produced.

11 Further material after the meeting

Email with four attachments · April 18, 2025 · Maureen Buzby to Amy Donovan-Palmer

> “Since NFG appeared on a Borad agenda you may receive any/all of these documents from other NFG Team members but in case you don’t…”

Four research papers, sent eight days after the presentation. Buzby adds: “Hopkinton voted to hold a public hearing. (Info only, not meant to pressure you. I know your board is very deliberative. But I will try to keep you updated.)” The misspelling is in the original.

12 Board of Health minutes, June 26, 2025

Board of Health minutes · June 26, 2025 · three members present; guests: none

> “Most of the members feel that they are not winning to adopt this in the town of Mansfield at this time, but would like to re-visit and discuss in January 2026.”

No vote on the birth-date policy is recorded; the item is carried to January 2026. The word “winning” appears as shown. The Board did decide to restrict nicotine pouches to six milligrams each, to be voted on in August. The production contains no hearing notice on the policy.

13 Board of Health minutes, August 14, 2025 — the pouch cap adopted

Board of Health minutes · August 14, 2025 · eleven guests recorded, most of them retailers

> “Ms. West made a motion to adopt the draft regulations as written to be effective on January 1, 2026, seconded by Mr. Wilson. Passed unanimously 4-0.”

The package adopted caps nicotine pouches at six milligrams and provides that a revoked or surrendered permit ceases to exist. The birth-date provision is not recorded as voted on, though the agenda lists it under the same discussion item. “Visitor Comments: None.” The minutes also record eight violations from an inspection of fourteen retailers the previous month. Two days earlier NECSEMA wrote to the Town Council and the Board opposing the six-milligram cap.