



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY BOARD OF HEALTH

Raymond Barry, Chairman
Robert Scarano, Vice Chair
Melissa Braga, Clerk
Charles Roux, Member
Susan Amato, Member

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEETING MINUTES January 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Raymond Barry, Chairman, at 6:05 p.m. Present at the meeting were Robert Scarano, Vice-Chair, Melissa Braga, clerk, Charles Roux and Susan Amato, members. Also in attendance was Shannon Gillis, Director of Public Health.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **December 15, 2022 meeting minutes presented for approval**

MOTION: Ms. Amato made the motion to approve the December 15, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Scarano and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

New Business:

- **Draft tobacco regulations to incorporate State law**

Mr. Barry stated that the State came out with the tobacco regulations in 2019 and Tewksbury's regulations needs to match the same level of requirements that the State has. The state promulgates certain regulations that the local health department must enforce. Local boards of health can make their own regulations however, the local regulations must be equally or more stringent than the State's regulation. This is just an administrative update of the regulation to match what the State has. Mr. Barry stated that the State's regulation had a much higher penalty fee for tobacco sales violations. A discussion ensued on the penalty fees and the changes. Ms. Amato asked what would be considered public areas. Ron Beauregard, Tobacco Control Officer was present and responded. Mr. Barry asked about outdoor smoking areas. Mr. Beauregard stated that they are allowed but may be prohibited if it causes smoke to be pulled back into a workplace, such as through a window or vent. The existing regulation states that retail tobacco stores/vape shops allow smoking in those types of establishments. A discussion ensued regarding outdoor smoking and fines. Ms. Braga asked if there was a certain distance that needed to be kept when smoking in front of a main entrance of a store front. Mr. Beauregard stated that there were no provisions for that in the Tewksbury regulation, but some local regulations do provide a distance for smoking in front of a municipal building.

MOTION: Ms. Braga made the motion to amend the regulation; seconded by Ms. Amato and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

Ms. Braga made the motion to adopt section 11.24 as amended; seconded by Ms. Amato and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

The Board thanked Mr. Beauregard for attending the meeting.

Director Reports:

Arielle Castro is certified as a SERV safe instructor. She is offering her first class on February 27th and 28th at the old Tyngsboro Town Hall. Additional details to follow.

Board Reports:

Mr. Barry suggested a list of health education topics. Those include mental illness/behavioral health, nutrition/obesity prevention, wellness, substance abuse, health literacy/advocacy/concerns, emergency preparedness, heart healthy living. Mr. Barry stated that all ideas are welcome. Next month's topic will be on hoarding and resources for people.

Mr. Scarano stated that the Senior Center has implemented a program to assist seniors in using their electronic devices to help them be more self-proficient.

Ms. Braga stated that a speaker from Mass for Safe Technology will attend the next board meeting to speak on EMF's (electromagnetic fields). She will be speaking about wireless education, understanding EMF's and radiation. A discussion ensued on the 5G technology.

The next Tewksbury Cares meeting will be held on January 30, 2023 at 6:00 pm the Tewksbury Police Department in the training room. The next Wellness Committee will be held in March at 3:30pm. Anyone interested in helping can contact Ms. Braga at mbraga@tewksbury-ma.gov.

Announcements:

Adjourn:

MOTION: Mr. Roux made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Braga and the motion unanimously carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Approved on: 2/16/23

**List of documents for January 19, 2023
Documents are located at the Tewksbury Health Department**

Approval of Minutes:
December 15, 2022

Public Hearing:

New Business:
Draft tobacco regulations

Old Business:

Director Reports:

Board Reports:

Announcements: