

## BOARD OF HEALTH

Laurel Skinder Gourville, Chair  
Elaine Silva, Vice Chair  
Candace Linehan, Secretary

## MEETING MINUTES

March 27<sup>th</sup> 2024 | 6:30 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Laurel Skinder Gourville, BOH chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Attendance:** Laurel Skinder Gourville, Chair, Elaine Silva, Vice Chair, Candace Linehan, secretary

**Administration Present:** Cindy Luongo, Board of Health Clerk, Anthony Chui, Health Director Melrose, Stoneham and Wakefield, Melissa Lowry, Public Health Nurse, Melrose, Stoneham and Wakefield. Senior Environmental Health, Melrose, Wakefield and Stoneham, Dan Thompson, Wakefield Health Inspector, Sandra Brown, Public Health Nurse for Wakefield, Maureen Buzby, Regional Tobacco Control Coordinator

**Approval of minutes of February 21, 2024:** Linehan motions, seconded by Silva. Motion passed 3-0-0 by roll call vote.

**Public Engagement:** Julie Scott via zoom 4 Central St Wakefield spoke to the board about the concerns of the proposed marijuana overlay district

**Public Hearing:** Wakefield Bodywork Regulations updates. Linehan motions to open the public hearing on the bodywork regulations changes, seconded by Silva. Motion passed 3 0 0.

Health Director Anthony Chui reads over the [proposed updates and revisions](#) of the current bodywork regulations to the board. The board discussed the requirements and guidelines for bodywork establishments, including the need for a licensed manager, prohibition of services in residential settings, and adequate space and equipment. They also discussed the importance of safety, sanitation, and ADA compliance. The team established rules such as mandatory sanitization of non-disposable instruments, prohibition of direct skin contact without sanitation, and the need for appropriate attire for clients. The public discussed the amendments to the regulations and the need for inspections, as well as the importance of professional ethics when placing advertisements. The board discussed the implementation of a new application process for businesses operating in the town of Wakefield. The application would require businesses to submit their services and any direct website they use. The board also clarified rules around advertising and using titles, with a focus on preventing misleading practices. The board discussed implementing new changes, with a proposed transition period of 60 days to ensure businesses are informed and prepared. The board agreed to accept the updated bodyworks regulation with a 60-day compliance period, starting from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.



Board of health member Linehan motioned to accept the updated bodywork regulations , seconded by Silva motion passed 3 0 0. Linehan motioned to close the public hearing , seconded by Silva. Motion passed by roll call 3 0 0

### **Discussion on Nicotine Free Generation**

Mark Gottlieb from Cambridge the Executive Director of Public Health Advocacy Institute, North Eastern University also a lawyer for public health litigation speaks to the board. Mark discussed the legal challenges to the tobacco-free generation policy, which was upheld by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in March. Mark represented the town of Brookline and they were the first town to pass the NFG.

Director Chui talked about the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial court decision

<https://ash.org/massachusetts-supreme-court-upholds-tobacco-free-generation-law/>

- Tobacco control coordinator Maureen Buzby wanted to read a few highlights from the document. She stressed that the local communities have lengthy history in regulating tobacco products to curb the adverse health effects of tobacco use.
- Tobacco use particularly among children and adolescents poses perhaps the most single significant threat to public health in the US.

Director Chui said that last night the Stoneham Board of health passed the policy at their BOH meeting.

Board of health Linehan said this policy makes sense to her and thought this is the way to go from the get-go. Vice Chair Silva said “this is our wish and job to make a healthy community. Protecting not only the youth but people from the dangers of second-hand smoke.” Chairperson Gourville said she thinks the policy is a worthy cause and this can be done, the concern is the scrutiny of the boards of health and what we have just gone through and the public criticism. Gourville said she does however agree with the policy. Linehan motioned to adopt the nicotine free generation policy as part of our current Tobacco and nicotine sales regulations, a proposed policy with effective date for January 1, 2025, seconded by Silva. Motioned passed by roll call 3 0 0.

### **Discussion on citizen’s petition to make a cannabis overlay district off of Audubon Road:**

The board also discussed the proposed amendment of chapter 190 of the zoning ordinance and the potential for the town to have its own local rules for cannabis, similar to alcohol and tobacco. Gourville spoke about the history. In 2013 when MA was legalizing marijuana the BOH and in 2017-2018 Wakefield took a moratorium that there would be no shops in town. We only had education and there was no position. Gourville said can the BOH take a position? She will no longer be on the BOH so she can. Director Chui spoke about the Melrose experience with the marijuana dispensaries. Some things that you may want to bring up is the location that is suggested by Audubon Rd, being very close to Colonial point a highly dense low income, economic disadvantage location. Silva asks, what will our role be in this, this is part of the planning and how they talked about Audubon Rd being the only the location they can go is close to hotels and market place. Director Chui also said looked at the policy and not sure if there was a cap discussed.

**Health Director Report:** Director Chui reads the report to the BOH.

- Fire at 387 Lowell St in the started in the exotic pet store. Dino's took the brunt of damage.
- A Drive about Wakefield discovering about 10 locations that are operating or advertising Bodywork.
- Public Health Nurses report is read.
- Members and Director thank outgoing Chair of Board Gourville for all she has done in the last 15 years
- Silva suggest having MHOA executive Director Cheryl Sbarra at our next tri-board meeting

**Adjournment:** Next meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> 2024 6:30PM

Silva motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Linehan, meeting adjourned at 08:33 pm by roll call 3 o  
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Cindy Luongo