



## Hudson Board of Health

78 Main Street  
Hudson, MA 01749  
(978) 562-2020

### MINUTES

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November 20, 2019

7:00 PM

Intel Mini Theater – Hudson High School

*Board members: Christie Vaillancourt, Michael Delfino, Jay Murphy*

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#### New Business

1. **Call to Order:**

- a. Ms. Vaillancourt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- b. Roll Call: Ms. Vaillancourt, Mr. Delfino and Mr. Murphy

2. **Public Hearing: *Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products*:** Ms. Vaillancourt made an opening statement in which she introduced the Board members and Ms. Calo, the Director of Public and Community Health. Ms. Vaillancourt also explained the ground rules for the Public Hearing. The Board will accept written testimony until November 27, 2019. The date for the vote on the proposed regulation will be announced and will be held during a Public meeting. If the proposed regulation is passed, the regulation will be posted at the Board of Health office, online and will be publicized in summary form in the Metro West Daily News within 30 days of passage. Mr. Murphy motioned to open the Public Hearing. Mr. Delfino seconded the motion and it carried 3-0. The floor was opened for discussion, with each speaker allowed to speak once for 3 minutes with no rebuttal.

Diane Maillet of 21 Cayuga Drive introduced herself as a mother, resident and high school teacher in a nearby town. She supports the proposed regulation and is

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hopeful of its passage. She spoke of seeing the impact of vaping in her students, and mentioned other students who feared using the school bathrooms because there was so much vaping.

Mary Cole, Program Coordinator, Greater Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership at Bay State Community Services, Inc. discussed several studies that indicate policies that restrict the sale of flavored tobacco have the potential to curb tobacco use in as few as six months. She wants people to be educated and to help create policy around creating health environments. Research shows that High School students who visit a convenience store 3 to 4 times a week are 64% more likely to use tobacco products. The City of Lowell instituted a policy that restricts the sale of flavored tobacco and showed reduced use by surveyed High School students. In 2017, 32.9% of underage youth purchased the tobacco products themselves. Mary also said that menthol tobacco addicts people faster than non-flavored products.

Tina Grosowsky of 425 Main Street worked on a Warrant Article 25 years ago in Acton that made Acton smoke-free. She believes the proposed regulation is important for public health and is proud to see Hudson stand up to Big Tobacco. She mentioned that the favorite product among teenagers is the mint flavored Juul pods. Although the Commonwealth is deliberating on banning flavored tobacco, she feels the local Boards of Health should limit availability.

Brian Buscemi of Buscemi's Convenience Store stated that they have lost a lot of business since the ban on vaping products was instituted and is concerned they will lose even more with the proposed regulation. He explained if people have to go to another town or state to purchase these products, they aren't going back to his business to buy other items in the store. He would like the Board to wait to see what the Commonwealth does.

Sarah McColgan, Tobacco Control Director for the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, said the Board should not wait for the Commonwealth to vote, as it may not pass or it may become a watered down version of the Bill. She stated 168 Massachusetts communities have already passed flavor restrictions and it is only a

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matter of time before other communities institute regulations. She said we need to support older smokers to quit and to prevent young people from starting.

Beth Langlois of 5 Appleton Drive is concerned that children are starting to vape/smoke at a much younger age. She feels the regulation won't completely remove the temptation, but it is a good step in the right direction.

Glenn Maston of 2 Collins Drive is fully in favor of the regulation. He said there is no doubt about the health hazards of vape/smoking. He hopes if Hudson passes the regulation it will encourage area towns to enact their own.

Marco Rodrigues, Superintendent of Hudson Public Schools, said there are no pros and cons, no debate that these products have chemicals that kill and we need to take a stance to impede or restrict access in our community. He offered his full support for the regulation.

Mr. Murphy motioned to close the Public Hearing. Mr. Delfino seconded the motion and it carried 3-0.

3. **Adjournment:** Mr. Murphy motioned to close the meeting and adjourn at 7:26 PM. Mr. Delfino seconded the motion and it carried 3-0.
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