

BOARD OF HEALTH

Contact Information

Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Meeting Time:	2 nd and 4 th Mondays of each month at 5:30 PM at Town Hall
Address:	Town Hall, One Main Street, 3 rd Floor, Ayer, MA 01432
Telephone:	978-772-8213
Email:	978-772-8222
Fax:	boh@ayer.ma.us

Members / Employees

Chair:	Pamela Papineau
Clerk:	Mary Spinner
Member:	Patricia Peters
Administrative Assistant:	Jane Morriss

Statement of Purpose:

The Ayer Board of Health is the legally designated health authority of the Town. It is responsible for implementing and overseeing policies as mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection to protect the public health of the Town. The Board accomplishes this by enforcing state laws and our own regulations and by regulating activities in our Aquifer Protection District.

Functions:

Together with the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, the Ayer Board of Health oversees, monitors, and enforces regulations regarding food service, housing, water, septic, rubbish disposal, recycling, noise, tobacco, animal inspection, and miscellaneous public health matters, including occasionally reviewing building plans. We provide information about local beach closings, annual flu clinics, and mosquito control. Both Boards continue to work with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies to closely monitor ongoing remediation activities at Shepley's Hill Landfill and other sites located on or near the former Fort Devens.

Summary 2017:

- On November 7, 2017 the Board of Health sponsored the Ayer Community Opioid Symposium held at the Ayer-Shirley Regional High School. The keynote address was delivered by Steve Boczenowski, co-founder of TADS (Teenage Anxiety and Depression Solutions); additional speakers included Kate Duffy (Tipping Point and Recovery Coach Academy), Nicholas Avellaneda (Advocates), Lindy Blanchflower (CVS Pharmacist), Sarah Mercier (Boston-Area Paramedic), and Mike Duggan (Wicked Sober). Panel members included Ayer Police Chief William Murray, Ayer Fire Chief Robert Pedrazzi, ASRHS Principal Al Varga, Betsy Dolan (William James College Interface Service), and Christa Maxant (Licensed Mental Health Counselor practicing in Ayer).
- With assistance from Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, and in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen and the Building Inspector, the Ayer Board of Health continued to monitor site cleanup and rodent infestation eradication at the previously-condemned property located at 66 Westford Road.
- On March 16, 2017 the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen Conducted an Emergency hearing to discuss the condition of rental properties located at 14 Williams Street and 128 Washington Street. Based on information, including still photographs and video, provided by the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (Bridgette Braley), the Building Inspector (Charles Schultz) and the Fire Chief (Robert Pedrazzi), both properties were condemned by the Board and the owner as well as all tenants were ordered to vacate the premises at both addresses. The owner was also ordered to secure the premises, remove all junk and debris from the exterior of the property, and to correct all other violations of the State Sanitary Code at both addresses.

Information presented at the hearing was obtained subsequent to an administrative search warrant issued by the Ayer District Court.

- With assistance from Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, and in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen, the Ayer Board of Health continued to monitor odor complaints related to Vitasoy.
- The Board of Health has drafted new Trash Hauler regulations. These regulations will define the requirements, standards and permit fees for all Haulers who service residential or commercial customers in the Town of Ayer. A public hearing, adoption and implementation will take place in 2015.
- A Board member continues to attend the regular meetings of the Devens Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), which monitors and reports on remediation work at Shepley's Hill and other sites located on the former Fort Devens. Arsenic remediation actions for the former Shepley's Hill landfill site have been effective in reducing groundwater arsenic levels. The RAB also presents information on the detection and monitoring of PFOA and PFOS in several sampling locations including Grove Pond. The Board remains in communication with the Ayer Department of Public Works regarding the levels of PFOA and PFOS in the Town's drinking water.
- Carlene Purdy, who previously served as Animal Inspector for the Town of Ayer, was re-appointed Animal Inspector for the term beginning May 1, 2017 and ending April 30, 2018.
- The Board sent letters to Massachusetts legislators opposing HB 1112, which would allow developers to override local ordinances in order to build affordable housing units.
- The Board signed a letter authored by the Mass Associated Boards of Health to the Speaker of the Mass House of Representatives, requesting the Speaker's support of HB 2864 proposing an increase in the legal age for the purchase of tobacco products from 18 to 21, prohibits the use of e-cigarettes anywhere smoking is prohibited, and prohibits the sale of cigarettes in health-related businesses such as drug stores. The proposal was approved by the MA Senate in 2016.
- The Board continues to issue annual permits for the sale of tobacco products, solid waste haulers, and for the keeping of animals and fowl.
- The Board continues its affiliation with the Worcester-based Region 2 Emergency Response Team, as represented by Nashoba Associated Boards of Health.
- The Ayer Board of Health belongs to the Leominster-based Boards of Health Tobacco Control Alliance.
- The Ayer Board of Health is a member of the State Associated Boards of Health under the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Papineau, Chair
Mary Spinner, Clerk
Patricia Peters, Member
Ayer Board of Health