



**TOWN OF WEBSTER
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

350 Main Street, Webster, Ma 01570
Phone: 1-508-949-3800 x 4002

Dave Zalewski – Chairman
Janet Stoica – Member

Iwona Miller - Vice Chairman
Matthew Wyke – Member

James Avery – Member

WEBSTER BOARD OF HEALTH

BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2019

Attending

Dave Zalewski
Iwona Miller
James Avery
Janet Stoica
Matthew Wyke

Also in attendance: Jennifer Sullivan – Director of Public Health and Danyel Guiou – Senior Clerk

Meeting called to order 5:01 pm

NEW BOARD BUSINESS

Public Hearing – Youth Access Tobacco Regulations

Chairman, Mr. Zalewski opened the start of the meeting for anyone who would like to raise any concerns or opinions regarding the proposed new regulations. DJ, from the Worcester Tobacco Coalition explained how effective this restriction is with other Towns, to narrow down where the youth can see flavored tobacco options. Adult only stores, such as vape shops, will not be affected if the regulation passes. RuthAnn Goguen, the Superintendent of the Webster Public Schools, supports the proposed regulations after seeing in the school systems, that many children are already faced with many challenges and flavored tobacco is another temptation for them. Town Administrator, Mr. Willardson, advised that he is communicating with the state to make this a statewide prohibition for the restriction of flavored tobacco and strongly supports this policy going forward. Many business owners in Town raised their concerns regarding loss of business to other Towns who do not have this restriction in effect. Other business owners do not feel that it is right to take away a legal right for someone of age to be able to purchase a flavored tobacco product if they choose to. Tina Grosowsky, from the University Of Massachusetts Medical School, pointed out that exposure of the flavored tobacco to the younger population can lead to trying this products in the future. In addition to Mr. Willardson's response, Tina mentioned that when enough Towns pass this regulation, the legislature will try and make this a statewide regulation. The Health Director added that there is no restriction for the amount of vape shops allowed in the Town. At this time, Mr. Zalewski asked if anyone would like to make a motion for the proposed Youth Access Tobacco Regulations.

Motion to deny the proposed tobacco regulations – James Avery

Second – Iwona Miller

2-3 vote to deny the proposed tobacco regulations

Motion to pass the proposed tobacco regulations and give 30 days for businesses to comply – Dave Zalewski

Second – Janet Stoica

3-2 vote to pass the proposed tobacco regulations and give 30 days for businesses to comply

Revised motion to pass the proposed tobacco regulations and give 90 days from 2/11/2019 for businesses to comply

Second – Janet Stoica

3-2 vote for a revised motion to pass the proposed tobacco regulations and give 90 days from 2/11/2019 for businesses to comply

Respectfully submitted,

*Danyel Guiou
Senior Clerk
Town of Webster*

Approved Date: 3/4/19

**Cc: Board of Health Members
Town of Webster Website
Town Clerk**