

CHRISTINE McKIERNAN, M.D. - Chair
MICHAEL ROSNER, M.D. - Vice Chair
KAREN WALSH PIO - Clerk
TONY JUDGE
STEPHEN FRANTZ

SHARON HART, Director of Public Health

NOTICE

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
&
AGENDA**

May 13th, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Webinar from your Computer:

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

Passcode: 846403

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87076896367?pwd=H0dIa044mshAzSZEbIajMopeyQdWji.1>

Or join by phone

+1 253 205 0468 US

Webinar ID: 870 7689 6367

Passcode: 846403

NOTE: Not all the topics listed in this notice may actually be reached for discussion. In addition, the topics listed are those which the Chair reasonably expects will be discussed as of the date of this notice.

To: Board of Health Members

From: Sharon D. Hart, Director of Public Health

Re: A Board of Health Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the South Hadley Library.

1: The Board of Health members will reorganize

2: The Chair will announce that the meeting is being recorded by either the Board/Committee or a member of the audience.

- 3: Chair to Call the Meeting to Order
- 4: Acceptance of the Minutes of the April 8, 2025, meeting.
- 5: Announcements/Open Forum (10 Minutes)
- 6: Director's Report
- 7: New Business:
 - (a): Board of Health Re-election
 - (b): Mount Holyoke College Energy Center Letter
 - (b): Say No to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Public Response
 - (c): Log in issues at the board of health meeting 04/08/25
- 8: Old Business:
 - (a): Letter of Support for Phone & Social Media Free Schools in Massachusetts - South Hadley Policy Update – Karen Walsh Pio
- 9: Set Next Meeting Date – (_____) at 6:00 p.m. at South Hadley Public Library
- 10: Adjourn meeting

South Hadley
Board of Health Meeting

Date: 04-08-25 Time: 6:00 p.m.

Members: Dr. Christine McKiernan, Chair: Present Dr. Michael Rosner, Vice-Chair Present Karen Walsh Pio, Clerk Present Tony Judge Present Stephen Frantz Virtually Charles Scott Present Sharon Hart Present Jennifer Jernigan Present Lori Souder, Town of South Hadley Human Rights Commission: Virtually

1. Chair to call the meeting to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Acceptance of the meeting minutes of 06-21-2024

Motion: Tony Judge, 2nd Karen Walsh Pio
All in Favor: Christine McKiernan – aye
Michael Rosner - aye
Tony Judge – aye
Karen Walsh Pio - aye
Stephen Frantz – aye

Acceptance of the meeting minutes of 01-28-2025

Motion: Karen Walsh Pio, 2nd Tony Judge
All in Favor: Christine McKiernan – aye
Michael Rosner - aye
Tony Judge – aye
Karen Walsh Pio - aye
Stephen Frantz – aye

3. **Announcements/Open Forum (10 Minutes)-**

Tony Judge inquired about an update on the status of the lawsuit associated with the results of the Dry Brook Hill aquifer study. Director Hart confirmed no update since last meeting.

4. **Director's Report – Director Hart provided an update on the latest activities and initiatives.**

Public Health Department Staff Update: Director Hart introduced Hannah Durham, new Public Health Program & Administrative Coordinator.

Blood Pressure Clinic: Director Hart shared that Health Department continues to hold blood pressure clinics at Council on Aging and will hold clinics at Lathrop Village.

Behavioral Health 360 – Credible Minds: Director Hart renegotiated contract with Holyoke and Chicopee and requested funding from State (PHE grant) to pay for all three communities for \$16,000.00. No South Hadley funding needed.

Health Education: Director Hart noted that information on specific health topics was posted in public buildings in town – in English and Spanish - during February (Heart Health), March (Colorectal Awareness), and April (Oral Health/Oral Cancer Awareness). Information also posted on Town website.

Information boards purchased and installed in public restrooms at Council on Aging, Library, and Town Hall – includes resource information about domestic violence support, suicide helpline, fentanyl test strips, sexually-transmitted infection prevention, stroke recognition & response, and overdose recognition & response information.

Bird Flu or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): Information distributed via Town website and at events and sent to all permit holders.

Blood Drive: Baystate Medical Center will sponsor blood drive at library, 10am-2pm, May 27th.

ADA Improvement Grant Program, MA Office of Disability (MOD): All equipment has been purchased (Bariatric cots, all-terrain wheelchairs, transcending chairs). Installation and training for transcending chairs will occur in May. Director closed out grant and reimbursement for \$28,723.56 scheduled for payment on 4/29/25.

Viral respiratory illness (COVID, RSV, Influenza) are declining: Respiratory illness reporting dashboard – MA Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences

COVID levels within Wastewater: Link to Website Information
COVID-19 Virus & Vaccination Information | South Hadley, MA - Official Website

COVID Tests: The Health Department continues to distribute COVID tests in public buildings – Town Hall, Library, Fire Station. Recently distributed to food establishments, retail, and faith-based communities that requested them. Will not order more until Fall.

Wastewater Testing: Health Department uses Biobot monitoring to do weekly wastewater testing for High-Risk Substances: Fentanyl, Xylazine, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Nicotine. Working with other communities in our Regional Health District (Holyoke and Chicopee) to secure 1 year of weekly testing for 3 different panels (below). Cost is \$29, 920 for South Hadley.

1. **High Risk Substances panel:** Cocaine, Fentanyl, Nicotine, Xylazine, Methamphetamine, and their metabolites where available.
2. **Substance Use Disorder panel:** Naloxone, Buprenorphine, Methadone, and their metabolites where available.

3. Opioid panel: Heroin, Morphine, Oxycodone, Acetyl fentanyl, Carfentanil, Codeine, Dihydrocodeine, Hydromorphone, Hydrocodone, Oxymorphone, Sufentanil, Tianeptine, Tramadol, and their metabolites where available.

GRANTS

Public Health Excellence Grant: Contracted with consultant to help brand our regional public health district. Consultant started working October 1, 2024 and meets with Regional Health District team every couple of weeks. PHE funding is secured through 2027.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Grant: Mass DEP grant for communities to receive 5-10 “PurpleAir” air sensors at no cost to measure PM2.5 levels. South Hadley received 8 air sensors – 5 installed in South Hadley and 3 installed in Chicopee. Data and information available at [PurpleAir Map](#) and [Healthy Air Network](#)

Tobacco: Grant for \$209,000.00. Conducted educational visits and compliance checks to retailers in 31 communities in Fall 2024. Spring 2025 round of educational visits and compliance checks start this month. Compliance checks are done twice a year.

5. New Business:

- a) Nicotine-Free Generation – Belchertown Board of Health representatives

David Gottsegen, M.D., member of Board of Health in Belchertown, summarized Nicotine-Free Generation regulation, which Belchertown passed at the end of February 2025. Director Hart will review South Hadley’s current tobacco regulation and draft an amended regulation for next meeting.

- b) Policy for Cremation of Certain Unclaimed Bodies – Sharon Hart

Motion to approve: Tony Judge, 2nd Karen Walsh Pio

All in Favor: Christine McKiernan – aye

Michael Rosner - aye

Tony Judge – aye

Karen Walsh Pio - aye

Stephen Frantz – aye

- c) PFAS regulations – Stephen Frantz

PFAS Draft By-Law Document

Concerns about timeline, costs, and capacity to enforce once implemented. Director Hart will look into inviting a representative from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to next meeting and will send draft to Town legal counsel for review.

- d) An Act authorizing the Town of South Hadley to prohibit application of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides – Stephen Frantz

Question raised about Board's ability to enforce ban on rodenticides on private properties in South Hadley. Director Hart will contact Town counsel.

Tony Judge left at 7:29pm.

6. Old Business:

- a) Letter of Support for Phone & Social Media Free Schools in Massachusetts – South Hadley Policy – Karen Walsh Pio

Letter of Support for Phone & Social Media Free Schools in Massachusetts - prepared by Massachusetts Coalition for Phone and Social Media Free Schools for interested community members and organizations to indicate their support for state bill S.461.

Questions raised students' use of school-provided devices and school updates that are communicated primarily through a school app. Karen Walsh Pio will share letter with South Hadley teachers and administrators and contact authors of letter for more information regarding questions raised.

- b) Board of Health representative to the South Hadley Human Rights Commission – Lori Souder

7. Set Next Meeting Date: May 13 at 6:00 p.m. at South Hadley Public Library

Motion to adjourn.

Motion Karen Walsh Pio; 2nd Stephen Frantz

All in favor: Christine McKiernan-aye

Stephen Frantz -aye

Karen Walsh Pio - aye

Michael Rosner – aye

8. Board of Health meeting adjourned: 7:52 p.m.



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>

Fwd: Board of Health Re-election

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadley.ma.gov>

Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 1:32 PM

To: Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>, Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadley.ma.gov>, Hannah Durham <hdurham@southhadley.ma.gov>

Sharon D. Hart,
Emergency Management Director,
Director of Public Health
116 Main Street, M2
South Hadley, MA 01075
cell (413) 315-7307
work (413) 538-5030 x 6184
fax (413) 538-5012
shart@southhadley.ma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Gmeiner** <sgmeiner@southhadley.ma.gov>
Date: Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 12:09 PM
Subject: Fwd: Board of Health Re-election
To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadley.ma.gov>

FYI -

Stephen might not be back in MA to be sworn in before the next BOH meeting. We'll let you know if that changes.

He'll be able to attend, but won't be able to vote or be counted towards the quorum.

Sarah Gmeiner

Town Clerk
Pronouns: They, Them
116 Main Street Room M11
South Hadley, MA 01075
Phone: (413) 538-5030 x6115

When writing or responding, please remember that the Secretary of State's Office has determined that email is a public record and is subject to requests under MGL c.66 §10.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Zoe Ingram** <zingram@southhadley.ma.gov>
Date: Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 11:03 AM
Subject: Re: Board of Health Re-election
To: Stephen Frantz [REDACTED]

Hi Stephen,

I am so sorry to hear that you are still in evacuation mode. I hope you can get back into the condo soon.

If you are not sworn in before then, you can attend, but not as a voting member. Please keep us updated, and we can work with you to find a time for you to get sworn in.

Thank you,

Zoe Ingram

Assistant Town Clerk
Town of South Hadley
116 Main St | South Hadley, MA 01075
Phone:(413) 538-5030 x6116

Clerk's page: <https://www.southhadley.org/156/Clerk>
Voter information: www.VoteinMA.com

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 11:05 PM Stephen Frantz [REDACTED] wrote:

Zoe — I forgot to mention that my delay here might exceed the next BOH scheduled meeting on May 13. I hope to be back before that, but if not, will I be able to attend the meeting? But not be eligible to vote?
Just trying to prepare for all contingencies.
Thanks again for your help — Stephen

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephen Frantz [REDACTED]
Date: April 11, 2025 at 5:45:14 PM PDT
To: Zoe Ingram <zingram@southhadleyma.gov>
Subject: Re: Board of Health Re-election

Dear Zoe —

Thank you so much for kindly notifying me of my BOH extension for three years. The arrangements for this to happen (successfully) were most complicated and I greatly appreciated all assistance.

I will get into the assigned tasks (Open Meeting Law and ethics training) as time allows; at the moment there are so many competing issues here with trying to get back into the condo. We are still in evacuation mode that is not pleasant.

Wishing you a Happy Spring...when that decides to occur.

All best — Stephen Frantz

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 9, 2025, at 10:42 AM, Zoe Ingram <zingram@southhadleyma.gov> wrote:

Congratulations Stephen,

I am writing to confirm that you have been re-elected to the Town of South Hadley Board of Health for a 3-year term ending in 2028.

The Town Clerk's Office has a few more action items for you:

- Review the Open Meeting Law materials and then sign and return the attached Open Meeting Law receipt (attached).
- Complete the new ethics training. This is now done online at <https://massethicstraining.skillburst.com/User/index.php>. The new system requires users to set up an account.
 - Click on "Create Your Account" to get started. For the organization, you will scroll down to South Hadley.
 - Let us know if you have already done this (even in a different municipality).
- Come by the office to be sworn in before your first meeting. Please let me know what day or time works best for you, and I will make sure Sarah or I are here.

Please confirm that this is the email you would like us to use for any official town business.

I have copied the appropriate staff, so they are looped in.

Thank you,

Zoe Ingram

Assistant Town Clerk
Town of South Hadley
116 Main St | South Hadley, MA 01075
Phone:(413) 538-5030 x6116

Clerk's page: <https://www.southhadley.org/156/Clerk>
Voter information: www.VoteinMA.com

*Do not print this email unless necessary
<Certificate of Receipt of Open Meeting Law Materials 10-21-20.pdf>
<Open Meeting Law Guide.pdf>



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Mt. Holyoke College Energy Center, 9 Woodbridge Street

linda sachs [REDACTED]
 To: shart@southhadleyma.gov
 Cc: jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov, gmaende@southhadleyma.gov

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 3:53 PM

Dear Sharon,

I am wondering:

- 1) Did you receive the email below?
- 2) Will you be sharing it with members of the Board of Health please, as I requested?
- 3) Will you and the Board please consider taking the strongest possible actions to prevent the harms from this project, outlined below, particularly the toxic vapors, noise and light pollution for operation of an electrical power plant in a residential neighborhood?

If you can, please assist in stopping this project altogether and convincing MHC to locate this facility in a building or buildings within their campus.

Also, I thought perhaps you might be interested in my Letter the Editor, published in today's The Republican newspaper. As I don't know whether or not you have a subscription, I am attaching a copy of the letter in a word document. The only thing that has changed, the headline now reads: **"Power plant wrong fit for residential area."**

Thank you for considering my requests.

Linda Sachs

P.S. Though I live on Woodbridge Street, I am not an abutter, nor do I live nearby the proposed site.

Begin forwarded message:

From: linda sachs [REDACTED]
Subject: Mt. Holyoke College Energy Center, 9 Woodbridge Street
Date: April 26, 2025 at 2:29:53 PM EDT
To: shart@southhadleyma.gov
Cc: jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov, gmaende@southhadleyma.gov

Dear Ms. Hart:

I understand that you have concerns about dust from the demolition and construction that will occur if Mount Holyoke College moves forward with its plan to build an Electrical Power Plant at 9 Woodbridge Street.

I know that MHC likes to use the euphemism "Energy Center," but their own architect said at the April 14 Planning Board public hearing: "Basically it's an electrical power plant."

(You can watch MHC's testimony here: <https://shctv15.com/video-archive/> Presenters from MHC begin around 14:10 on the video. Abutters begin offering testimony at about 51:00. Please watch as their comments are incredibly moving).

There are numerous other serious health impacts from this project, aside from dust, that I hope you will consider and take forceful action on:

1. Noise from construction, which will include jack hammering up the concrete parking lot. MHC said construction will last from October 2025 to the end of 2026. Since construction delays are the rule, not the exception, I think we can assume there will be at least two years of horrendous noise that has the potential to seriously harm residents mental and physical health.

2. Traffic congestion and attendant air pollution from construction: Woodbridge Street is heavily trafficked during commuting times in the morning and evening. Cars will undoubtedly be backed up due to construction equipment going in

and out of the site. How much air pollution will be created by those idling cars? How much air pollution from diesel powered construction equipment?

3. Noise from the Energy Centers' equipment: (ground source heat pumps in the building and air source generators on the roof). MHC measured ambient noise at 2 AM and claims therefore there is no noise problem!

4. Light pollution — the brightly lit building interior will have lights on until well into the night and since the structure is coved in large glass windows, this has the potential to cause serious harm and sleep disturbances to the occupants of the apartment building across the street, and possibly other nearby homes.

5. Delayed fire and ambulance response times during construction. This is a potential concern given the proximity of the firehouse to the proposed site and the inevitable traffic congestion and movement of heavy construction equipment.

5. Harmful vapors (containing VOCs) from the gasoline that remains in the ground at the site. You can read the engineer's report on the SH website here: <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/14007/MHC-Energy-Center---Geotechnical-Report>

The engineer notes:

"...the migration of gasoline vapors into the proposed building (or into utility manholes associated with the project) are a potential concern. A sub slab venting system is proposed below to address this concern.

Vapor intrusion occurs when vapor-forming chemicals in the underlying soil release vapors that rise toward the surface. These vapors can pass through any gaps in the building foundation (such as cracks and openings for utility lines) and enter the building. Once inside the building, these vapors can accumulate to levels that are detrimental to indoor air quality and can pose safety and health risks for building occupants. Photoionization Detector (PID) screening of soil samples from the borings detected Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in soils within and near the proposed building footprint. Due to the relatively high concentrations of VOCs detected by the screening, the potential for soil gas intrusion into the new building is a significant consideration for the proposed project. The migration of soil vapors into the proposed building could potentially result in a risk to building occupants. Therefore, to mitigate this potential risk and prevent the migration of soil gas into the new buildings, we recommend that a subsurface venting layer be installed beneath the new building slab. We recommend that OTO be contracted to design this system and evaluate any regulatory requirements during final design. We recommend that the system include, at a minimum: a vapor barrier, a crushed stone sub-slab venting layer, collection and riser pipes which vent above the roofline, and sampling ports for future evaluation. Furthermore, air sampling of the new building may be required to confirm that the risks of vapor intrusion have been adequately addressed.

This report really begs the question, if these vapors are vented, how high will the vent be? In making the building free of these toxins, will they be polluting the surrounding air? Will abutters and others be breathing these VOCs? How much ozone will be created when the VOCs are exposed to sunlight? Will people with asthma or other respiratory illnesses be effected? What about short term exposures causing eye, nose, throat irritation, headaches and dizziness?

None of the harms I have outlined are acceptable when you consider that MHC only explored one alternative site within their 700 acres of property. They testified vaguely that this one on-campus site was rejected due to infrastructure and other constraints.

MHC claims the Energy Center/Electrical Power Plant has been designed to "showcase" their commitment to carbon neutrality. I have no quarrel with carbon neutrality. However, I do believe that such a "showcase" belongs on campus. If it's okay to site an electrical power plant next to All Saints Episcopal Church and numerous residences, why is it not okay to put it on campus? There's a huge grassy area in front of Skinner Hall, in front of Abbey Chapel and I'm sure if they looked they could find other locations. MHC could also create several energy centers, instead of one large one or and put these ground source heat pumps in the basements of their on-campus buildings.

I would like to ask you to please share my email with your Board members.

Thank you so much for considering these health issues.

Best,

Linda Sachs
193 Woodbridge Street
South hadley, MA 01075

 **LSachs Letter_Mt Holyoke College_Dangerous Plan.docx**
144K

April 29, 2025

**An Electrical Power Plant Does Not Belong in a Residential Zone
On Woodbridge Street**

Mount Holyoke College (MHC) is attempting to pressure South Hadley into allowing a 6,000 square foot electrical power plant to be constructed on Woodbridge Street, next to All Saints Episcopal Church and across from The Ruby apartment building.

MHC is deceptively calls the proposed building an “Energy Center” to “showcase” their commitment to carbon neutrality. Yet MHC’s own architect said at a public hearing on April 14th: “Basically it’s an electrical power plant.”

This is a residential zone. The South Hadley Planning Board must prohibit this industrial use. It will destroy the neighborhood’s charming village character, and abutters and nearby residents will be subjected to constant noise from the electrical power plant heat pumps.

Also, MHC’s own engineer said there is a real danger from “relatively high concentrations” of toxic vapors seeping into the building from gasoline in the soil. The engineer recommends venting the gas above the roof. This potentially pollutes the air that neighbors breathe.

After encountering questions from the Planning Board and significant opposition from residents at that public hearing, MHC now claims the Planning Board has no jurisdiction and zoning regulations do not apply. They claim that the college is exempt under a state law called the Dover Amendment. The Dover Amendment gives institutions latitude in using land and structures for educationally significant purposes.

MHC conveniently ignores that the Dover Amendment also stipulates the educationally significant goal must be the primary or dominant purpose. How is the purpose of an electrical power plan “primarily educational?” If an electrical power plant is educational, so too is a garbage dump. After all, it could teach students about the importance of recycling.

Equally inappropriate is the fact that MHC didn't adequately explore putting the heat pumps somewhere on their massive campus. They studied only one site and rejected it due to vague "infrastructure constraints."

The South Hadley Planning Board needs the courage to stop this industrial facility in a residential neighborhood. I urge town residents to show up at the next public hearing. It's June 23rd at the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street; 6:30 PM.

Written and submitted by:

Linda Sachs
193 Woodbridge Street
South Hadley, MA 01075





Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>

Fwd: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations

1 message

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Tue, May 6, 2025 at 2:21 PM

To: Stephen Frantz [REDACTED] Stephen Frantz <sfrantz@shadleyma.org>, "Dr. Michael Rosner"
[REDACTED] K W Pio [REDACTED] Karen Walsh Pio [REDACTED] Tony Judge
[REDACTED] Tony Judge <tjudge@shadleyma.org>, Chuck [REDACTED], Georgina Maende
<gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Sharon D. Hart,
Emergency Management Director,
Director of Public Health
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South Hadley, MA 01075
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work (413) 538-5030 x 6184
fax (413) 538-5012
shart@southhadleyma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shawna Hardaway** [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, May 6, 2025 at 2:15 PM
Subject: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations
To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Dear Public Health Director Sharon Hart,

Some cities and towns in Massachusetts are considering a new policy called Nicotine Free Generation (NFG).

I ask that you reject this policy for the following reasons:

- When a person is 21 years of age, that person is an adult and should be able to use legal adult products.
- It applies different laws to two groups of adults treating them differently from one another for the purchase and use of the same products despite both being 21 years of age or older.
- It does nothing to address youth use of nicotine products since the policy targets adults upon reaching the age of 21.
- It is blatantly hypocritical allow an adult to purchase and use cannabis or alcoholic beverages or gamble on sports, but prohibit that same adult from purchasing and using a nicotine product.

This policy goes way too far.

Say NO to NFG regulations in Massachusetts.

Regards,
Shawna Hardaway
122 Robbins Ave
Pittsfield, MA 01201



Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>

Fwd: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Tue, May 6, 2025 at 9:52 AM

To: Chuck [REDACTED], Karen Walsh Pio [REDACTED], K WPio [REDACTED], Stephen Frantz [REDACTED], "Dr. Michael Rosner" [REDACTED], Stephen Frantz <sfrantz@shadleyma.org>, Tony Judge [REDACTED], Tony Judge <judge@shadleyma.org>, Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

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shart@southhadleyma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jack Libasci [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, May 5, 2025 at 4:27 PM
Subject: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations
To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Dear Public Health Director Sharon Hart,

Some cities and towns in Massachusetts are considering a new policy called Nicotine Free Generation (NFG).

I ask that you reject this policy for the following reasons:

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- It is blatantly hypocritical allow an adult to purchase and use cannabis or alcoholic beverages or gamble on sports, but prohibit that same adult from purchasing and using a nicotine product.

This policy goes way too far.

Say NO to NFG regulations in Massachusetts.

Regards,
Jack Libasci
46 Sheridan Ave
Medford, MA 02155



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Fwd: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations

1 message

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov> Fri, May 2, 2025 at 9:26 AM
 To: Karen Walsh Plo [REDACTED], K W Pio [REDACTED], "Dr. Michael Rosner" [REDACTED],
 Tony Judge <tjudge@shadleyma.org>, Stephen Frantz [REDACTED] Stephen
 Frantz <sfrantz@shadleyma.org>, Chuck [REDACTED], Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>,
 Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Sharon D. Hart,
 Emergency Management Director,
 Director of Public Health
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 South Hadley, MA 01075
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 fax (413) 538-5012
 shart@southhadleyma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----
 From: Lisa Hutchins [REDACTED]
 Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 5:43 PM
 Subject: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations
 To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Dear Public Health Director Sharon Hart,

Some cities and towns in Massachusetts are considering a new policy called Nicotine Free Generation (NFG).

I ask that you reject this policy for the following reasons:

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This policy goes way too far.

Say NO to NFG regulations in Massachusetts.

Regards,
 Lisa Hutchins
 131 Burbank St
 Pittsfield, MA 01201



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Fwd: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations

1 message

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 4:03 PM

To: Karen Walsh Pido [REDACTED], K WPio [REDACTED], "Dr. Michael Rosner" [REDACTED],
Tony J [REDACTED], Stephen Frantz <frantz@mac.com>, Tony Judge <tjudge@shadleyma.org>, Stephen
Frantz <sfrantz@shadleyma.org>, Chuck [REDACTED], Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>,
Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

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shart@southhadleyma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Donna. L** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 3:14 PM
Subject: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations
To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Dear Public Health Director Sharon Hart,

Some cities and towns in Massachusetts are considering a new policy called Nicotine Free Generation (NFG).

I ask that you reject this policy for the following reasons:

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- It does nothing to address youth use of nicotine products since the policy targets adults upon reaching the age of 21.
- It is blatantly hypocritical allow an adult to purchase and use cannabis or alcoholic beverages or gamble on sports, but prohibit that same adult from purchasing and using a nicotine product.

This policy goes way too far.

Say NO to NFG regulations in Massachusetts.

Regards,
Donna. L
500 Main St
Stoneham, MA 02180



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Fwd: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations

1 message

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 4:04 PM

To: Stephen Frantz [REDACTED], Stephen Frantz <sfrantz@shadleyma.org>, "Dr. Michael Rosner" [REDACTED], K W P [REDACTED], Karen Walsh P [REDACTED], Tony Judge [REDACTED], Tony Judge <tjudge@shadleyma.org>, Chuck [REDACTED], Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Sharon D Hart,
Emergency Management Director,
Director of Public Health
116 Main Street, M2
South Hadley, MA 01075
cell (413) 315-7307
work (413) 538-5030 x 6184
fax (413) 538-5012
shart@southhadleyma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Madhab Adhikari** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 3:15 PM
Subject: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations
To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Dear Public Health Director Sharon Hart,

Some cities and towns in Massachusetts are considering a new policy called Nicotine Free Generation (NFG).

I ask that you reject this policy for the following reasons:

- When a person is 21 years of age, that person is an adult and should be able to use legal adult products.
- It applies different laws to two groups of adults treating them differently from one another for the purchase and use of the same products despite both being 21 years of age or older.
- It does nothing to address youth use of nicotine products since the policy targets adults upon reaching the age of 21.
- It is blatantly hypocritical allow an adult to purchase and use cannabis or alcoholic beverages or gamble on sports, but prohibit that same adult from purchasing and using a nicotine product.

This policy goes way too far.

Say NO to NFG regulations in Massachusetts.

Regards,
Madhab Adhikari
16 Edjen Ln
Barnstable, MA 02601

Fwd: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations

1 message

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 8:43 AM

To: Chuck [REDACTED], Stephen Frantz [REDACTED], Stephen Frantz <sfrantz@shadleyma.org>, "Dr. Michael R. [REDACTED]", K WPio [REDACTED], Karen Walsh Pio [REDACTED], Tony Judge [REDACTED], Tony Judge <tjudge@shadleyma.org>, Georgina Maende [REDACTED] <gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Sharon D. Hart,
Emergency Management Director,
Director of Public Health
116 Main Street, M2
South Hadley, MA 01075
cell (413) 315-7307
work (413) 538-5030 x 6184
fax (413) 538-5012
shart@southhadleyma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Palmer [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Apr 19, 2025 at 1:37 PM
Subject: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations
To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Dear Public Health Director Sharon Hart,

Some cities and towns in Massachusetts are considering a new policy called Nicotine Free Generation (NFG).

I ask that you reject this policy for the following reasons:

- When a person is 21 years of age, that person is an adult and should be able to use legal adult products.
- It applies different laws to two groups of adults treating them differently from one another for the purchase and use of the same products despite both being 21 years of age or older.
- It does nothing to address youth use of nicotine products since the policy targets adults upon reaching the age of 21.
- It is blatantly hypocritical allow an adult to purchase and use cannabis or alcoholic beverages or gamble on sports, but prohibit that same adult from purchasing and using a nicotine product.

This policy goes way too far.

Say NO to NFG regulations in Massachusetts.

Regards,
David Palmer
9 Douglas Ln
Wareham, MA 02538



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Fwd: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations

1 message

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 1:27 PM

To: Stephen Frantz [REDACTED], Stephen Frantz <sfrantz@shadleyma.org>, "Dr. Michael Rosner"

[REDACTED] Pio [REDACTED], Karen Walsh Pio [REDACTED] Tony Judge

Tony Judge <tjudge@shadleyma.org>, Chuck [REDACTED] Georgina Maende

<gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

fyi

Sharon D. Hart,
 Emergency Management Director,
 Director of Public Health
 116 Main Street, M2
 South Hadley, MA 01075
 cell (413) 315-7307
 work (413) 538-5030 x 6184
 fax (413) 538-5012
 shart@southhadleyma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alex pet [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 12:59 PM

Subject: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations

To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Dear Public Health Director Sharon Hart,

Some cities and towns in Massachusetts are considering a new policy called Nicotine Free Generation (NFG).

I ask that you reject this policy for the following reasons:

- When a person is 21 years of age, that person is an adult and should be able to use legal adult products.
- It applies different laws to two groups of adults treating them differently from one another for the purchase and use of the same products despite both being 21 years of age or older.
- It does nothing to address youth use of nicotine products since the policy targets adults upon reaching the age of 21.
- It is blatantly hypocritical allow an adult to purchase and use cannabis or alcoholic beverages or gamble on sports, but prohibit that same adult from purchasing and using a nicotine product.

This policy goes way too far.

Say NO to NFG regulations in Massachusetts.

Regards,
 Alex pet
 1427 Orleans-Harwich Rd
 Harwich, MA 02645



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Fwd: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations

1 message

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 1:25 PM

To: Stephen Frantz [REDACTED], Stephen Frantz <sfrantz@shadleyma.org>, "Dr. Michael Rosner" [REDACTED],
 [REDACTED], Ken Walsh Pion [REDACTED], Tony Judge <tjudge@shadleyma.org>, Tony Judge
 [REDACTED], Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadleyma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

fyi

Sharon D. Hart,
 Emergency Management Director,
 Director of Public Health
 116 Main Street, M2
 South Hadley, MA 01075
 cell (413) 315-7307
 work (413) 538-5030 x 6184
 fax (413) 538-5012
 shart@southhadleyma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Gmeiner** <sgmeiner@southhadleyma.gov>
 Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 1:10 PM
 Subject: Fwd: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations
 To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Are you getting these as well? Would you like me to forward these over when I get them?

Sarah Gmeiner

Town Clerk
 Pronouns: They, Them
 116 Main Street Room M11
 South Hadley, MA 01075
 Phone: (413) 538-5030 x6115

When writing or responding, please remember that the Secretary of State's Office has determined that email is a public record and is subject to requests under MGL c.86 §10.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andy michel** [REDACTED]
 Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 1:04 PM
 Subject: Say NO to Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Regulations
 To: Sarah Gmeiner <sgmeiner@southhadleyma.gov>

Dear Town Clerk Sarah Gmeiner,

Some cities and towns in Massachusetts are considering a new policy called Nicotine Free Generation (NFG).

I ask that you reject this policy for the following reasons:

- When a person is 21 years of age, that person is an adult and should be able to use legal adult products.
- It applies different laws to two groups of adults treating them differently from one another for the purchase and use of the same products despite both being 21 years of age or older.



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>

Letter from NECSEMA to the South Hadley Town Council, and South Hadley Board of Health

7 messages

Peter Brennan <Peter@necsema.net> Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 3:46 PM
To: "amilies@southhadley.ma.gov" <amilies@southhadley.ma.gov>, "jcyr@southhadley.ma.gov" <jcyr@southhadley.ma.gov>, "cconstant@southhadley.ma.gov" <cconstant@southhadley.ma.gov>, "rsweeney@southhadley.ma.gov" <rsweeney@southhadley.ma.gov>, "ncasolari@southhadley.ma.gov" <ncasolari@southhadley.ma.gov>, "jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov" <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>, "zingram@southhadley.ma.gov" <zingram@southhadley.ma.gov>, "shart@southhadley.ma.gov" <shart@southhadley.ma.gov>, "sgmeiner@southhadley.ma.gov" <sgmeiner@southhadley.ma.gov>

Dear Members of the South Hadley Town Council, and the South Hadley Board of Health,

Please find attached a letter from the New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association (NECSEMA) with important information regarding Nicotine Free Generation. I encourage you to review the letter and reach out if you would like to discuss this matter in greater detail. Our goal is to help educate decisionmakers on all aspects of this policy before a decision to consider it has been determined.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Peter

Peter A. Brennan

Executive Director

New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association, Inc. (NECSEMA)

1044 Central Street, Suite 203, Stoughton, MA 02072

Mobile: 781-901-9841 | Office: 781-297-9600 ext. 3 | Fax: 781-297-9601

peter@necsema.net | www.necsema.net | Join NECSEMA

2 attachments

NECSEMA NFG Letter-South Hadley.pdf 323K

Massachusetts_ tobacco flavor ban failure.pdf 226K

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadley.ma.gov> Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 3:59 PM
To: Tony Judge <tjudge@shadley.ma.gov>, "Dr. Michael Rosner" <KWPio@shadley.ma.gov>, Karen Walsh Pio <ChristineMcKiernan@shadley.ma.gov>, Stephen Frantz <sfrantz@shadley.ma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>, Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadley.ma.gov>, Hannah Durham <hdurham@southhadley.ma.gov>

FYI

Sharon D. Hart,
Emergency Management Director,
Director of Public Health
116 Main Street, M2
South Hadley, MA 01075
cell (413) 315-7307
work (413) 538-5030 x 6184
fax (413) 538-5012
shart@southhadley.ma.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

NECSEMA NFG Letter-South Hadley.pdf 323K

Massachusetts_ tobacco flavor ban failure.pdf 226K

Peter Brennan <Peter@necsema.net> Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 6:23 PM
To: "amilies@southhadley.ma.gov" <amilies@southhadley.ma.gov>, "jcyr@southhadley.ma.gov" <jcyr@southhadley.ma.gov>, "cconstant@southhadley.ma.gov" <cconstant@southhadley.ma.gov>, "rsweeney@southhadley.ma.gov" <rsweeney@southhadley.ma.gov>, "ncasolari@southhadley.ma.gov" <ncasolari@southhadley.ma.gov>, "jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov" <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>, "zingram@southhadley.ma.gov" <zingram@southhadley.ma.gov>, "shart@southhadley.ma.gov" <shart@southhadley.ma.gov>, "sgmeiner@southhadley.ma.gov" <sgmeiner@southhadley.ma.gov>

Is the zoom working for the meeting tonight? I have been waiting since 6pm to be allowed in.

[Quoted text hidden]

Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>
To: Peter Brennan <Peter@necsema.net>

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 6:54 PM

PUBLIC HEALTH

SOUTH HADLEY MASSACHUSETTS

CHRISTINE MCKERNAN, M.D. - Chair
 MICHAEL ROSNER, M.D. - Vice Chair
 KAREN WALSH PIO - Clerk
 JIMMY JUDGE
 STEPHEN FRANTZ

SHARON HART, Director of Public Health

NOTICE
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
&
AGENDA

April 8th, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Webinar from your Computer:
 Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android.
 Passcode: 807829
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9257712692>

Or join by phone
 US: +1 646 931 3860 US
 Webinar ID: 848 1220 6670
 Passcode: 807829

NOTE: Not all the topics listed in this notice may actually be reached for discussion. In addition, the topics listed are those which the Chair reasonably expects will be discussed as of the date of this notice.

Board of Health Members

Sharon D. Hart, Director of Public Health

Board of Health Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025

Jennifer Jernigan,
Assistant Public Health Director/Burial Agent
Town of South Hadley
Board of Health, Room M2
(413)538-5017, x6107

*** In the event of an urgent need for a burial certificate, please contact Beers & Story at 413-533-4400. Thanks. ***



[Quoted text hidden]

Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>
To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 7:13 PM

FYI

Jennifer Jernigan,
Assistant Public Health Director/Burial Agent
Town of South Hadley
Board of Health, Room M2
(413)538-5017, x6107

*** In the event of an urgent need for a burial certificate, please contact Beers & Story at 413-533-4400. Thanks. ***



[Quoted text hidden]

Peter Brennan [REDACTED]
To: Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>
Cc: Josh Pruett [REDACTED]

Thank you. That is the same info on the PDF agenda on the website which didn't work for me.

Peter

From: Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:54 PM
To: Peter Brennan [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Letter from NECSEMA to the South Hadley Town Council, and South Hadley Board of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH

CHRISTINE MCKIERNAN, M.D. - Chair
MICHAEL ROSNER, M.D. - Vice Chair
KAREN WALSH PIO - Clerk
JOHN JUDGE
STEPHEN FRANTZ

BO.



New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association

PETER A. BRENNAN
Executive Director

April 8, 2025

Town Council
South Hadley Town Hall
116 Main St,
South Hadley, MA 01075

Board of Health
South Hadley Town Hall
116 Main St,
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear Members of the South Hadley Town Council, and South Hadley Board of Health,

Some municipalities in Massachusetts are contemplating the adoption of “Nicotine Free Generation” (NFG) regulations to ban the sale of all nicotine products locally. We ask that you reject any attempts to adopt this regulation. Such a policy undemocratically infringes on 21-plus adults in your community and fails to effectively impact youth access to age-restricted products.

Eliminating youth access to age restricted products is a goal retailers share with health officials and NFG proposals, by design, drive nicotine products into the illicit, unregulated market. Removing these legal adult products from regulated environments makes them more, not less, attractive to youth who will seek to obtain such products illegally.

The proposed NFG changes to local tobacco regulations typically state:

“Prohibition of Sales – No person, firm, corporation, establishment, or agency shall sell tobacco or e-cigarette products to anyone born on or after 1/1/2004. Any person, firm, corporation, establishment, or agency who or which shall violate any provisions of this regulation and upon written notification shall be fined and suspended in accordance to the schedule set forth under the Regulation of the Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products.”

Proponents of NFG claim the policy is intended to protect youth by banning sales, but not access to nicotine products for adults 21 years of age or older. NFG has nothing to do with minors under the age of 21. The adoption of the above or similar language would not reduce youth access to nicotine products in your community but rather would prevent 21-plus adults from purchasing nicotine products just as they currently do alcohol, cannabis, lottery or engage in sports wagering according to the rights granted by the state to those age 21 or older.

It is important to understand why NFG regulation is unnecessary and inappropriate for 21-plus adults, local retailers, and your community:

- Youth access and use of nicotine should be a primary concern when considering novel nicotine regulations. NFG does nothing to prevent access to nicotine for minors under the age of 21.

- Significant concerns about the creation of a “massive,” unregulated illicit market with potentially dangerous products, along with concerns about the loss of tax revenue, led New Zealand to repeal a briefly adopted ban of nicotine products.
- Youth and legal aged adults will continue to find ways to acquire nicotine products just as they did with alcohol during prohibition, and when cannabis was illegal.
- Both retailers and local and state economies will suffer financially as this NFG policy is effectively a de facto prohibition of the product.

Licensed retailers responsibly age verify all regulated nicotine sales by law.

NFG policy is overreaching and not only fails in its attempt to regulate nicotine use, but it is also destructive to the valuations of local businesses that have been built over many years and provide a critical resource for your community. The impact of the regulations will result in harm to local stores, their families, and the local and state economy. Claims that the sunset nature of the policy is “virtuous” demonstrates a complete lack of knowledge and empathy. It is not virtuous, but punishing, since the moment this policy is passed, the value of businesses with a license to sell nicotine products will be destroyed.

We ask both now and in the future that you weigh any similar proposals with sensibility, facts, and fairness in mind.

Adulthood is the ability to make legal choices, despite others’ personal morals.

Many adults choose to responsibly use nicotine products. Your community should maintain a legal way for these adults to obtain them in a regulated environment subject to unannounced inspections.

Some adults choose to use nicotine in its many forms, for many personal reasons, just as they use alcohol and marijuana or wager on sports. The rights and freedoms of adults to make decisions about their individual lives is a key tenet of our democracy.

Your community has historically displayed the wisdom of keeping adult products in regulated and permitted stores and off the streets. Yet, NFG policies represent a tipping point in your community where NFG proponents target all nicotine products as morally wrong, while other adult products that have similarly been deemed harmful remain acceptable. This is bad governance and policy making that tramples on civil liberties and harms small businesses.

It is an inconvenient truth that cities and **towns like yours financially benefit from the sale of marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco alike.** Ignoring this truth is selective self-deception which erodes faith in government and helps erode faith and confidence in the government’s ability to operate fairly for all. Anti-tobacco advocates have gone too far in using the lure of “youth prevention” to push this policy, when in reality, the NFG policy only prohibits adults’ rights to use legal adult products.

Brookline Committees Rejected NFG.

After significant deliberation and consideration, every Brookline board and committee that held a hearing voted "NO ACTION" on Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) policy.

Despite their elected and appointed leaders' rejections of the proposal, a small majority of Brookline Town Meeting members voted to adopt the policy, but they did so without the same time and attention given by boards and committees. Furthermore, they voted on the NFG warrant article (14) two hours into the 3rd of 3 straight "arduous" nights of voting. It would not be a stretch to say energy and attention to this issue were suboptimal by the time the vote was made.

Please consider the implications of instituting a policy such as NFG. It threatens the rights of adults, undermines small business owners, and hinders the local and state economy. Many products, such as alcohol, marijuana, and gambling/lottery are age restricted, with reason, but the trend has been to regulate and monitor the sale and usage of these products to ensure that youth access is restricted while allowing adults to make adult choices. The same should hold true with tobacco and nicotine products.

Citizens lose faith in government when policies regarding regulated products are inconsistent, like the NFG policy, because they contradict common sense.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Brennan

CC: Sharon D. Hart, Public Health Director
Sarah B. Gmeiner, Town Clerk



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Fwd: Feedback on BOH mtg tonight 4/8/25

6 messages

Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>

Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 1:45 PM

To: James Doolittle <jdoolittle@southhadleyma.gov>, Dan Pease <dpease@southhadleyma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Joanna,

Thank you for your email. I am including Jennifer, IT and Cable in this email to let them know and hoping to find some answers.

Sharon D. Hart,
Emergency Management Director,
Director of Public Health
116 Main Street, M2
South Hadley, MA 01075
cell (413) 315-7307
work (413) 538-5030 x 6184
fax (413) 538-5012
shart@southhadleyma.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joanna Brown** [redacted]
Date: Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 8:31 PM
Subject: Feedback on BOH mtg tonight 4/8/25
To: shart@southhadleyma.gov <shart@southhadleyma.gov>
Cc: Sandy Ward [redacted]

Dear Director Hart,

Sandy Ward, from Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Mass, and I (who had been on the FCAWM board for several years), spoke a few days ago about the past and present status of the "dead body" issue, and we wanted to attend the BOH meeting remotely.

We each tried to use the Zoom link for tonight's BOH meeting from our home computers, and we ended up "parked" in "Town of South Hadley 2's Personal Meeting Room" with a legend saying "waiting for the host to start the meeting" and a rotating circle next to that legend.

That status never led to either of us being admitted to the meeting.

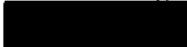
I then tried the phone number to call in to the meeting. I got error messages, so I guessed that there should only be one "1" in front of the phone number, and when I used only one "1," then it worked. However, no one in the meeting ever asked if anyone calling in wanted to speak (or prompted us to unmute with *6 or #6?) so I was not able to share my thoughts on the funeral issue or information that I had about the two chemicals, dicamba and 2,4-D, on the farm issue.

I would appreciate your thoughts about how the hybrid problems that Sandy and I encountered tonight can be addressed (such as being sure that the attendee link for Zoom works, that the phone number is correct (remove the extra leading "1"), or that the Zoom tech person knows how to check the waiting room and let in people) so that attendees are not prevented from participating.

Thank you very much for considering the problems that Sandy and I encountered tonight. I will send an attachment about Dicamba and some comments when I have heard from you.

I have cc:d Sandy Ward so that she knows that I have communicated with you.

Sincerely,
Joanna Brown
25 Charon Terrace
South Hadley, MA 01075



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>
To: Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadley.ma.gov>

Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 1:47 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Jennifer Jernigan,
Assistant Public Health Director/Burial Agent
Town of South Hadley
Board of Health, Room M2
(413)538-5017, x6107

*** In the event of an urgent need for a burial certificate, please contact Beers & Story at 413-533-4400. Thanks. ***



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>
To: Dan Pease <dpease@southhadley.ma.gov>

Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 1:49 PM

Hi Dan:

I did not see anyone with a hand raised at our meeting last night? And where would the waiting room for phone callers be? I did not see any indication of anyone needing assistance or to be let in? There were at least 4 others on the zoom - 3 attendees that had no problem?

Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sharon Hart** <shart@southhadley.ma.gov>
Date: Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 1:47 PM
Subject: Fwd: Feedback on BOH mtg tonight 4/8/25
To: James Doolittle <jdoolittle@southhadley.ma.gov>, Dan Pease <dpease@southhadley.ma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]


James Doolittle <jdoolittle@southhadley.ma.gov>
To: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadley.ma.gov>
Cc: Dan Pease <dpease@southhadley.ma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>

Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 2:35 PM

The +1 is a country code indicated by the US: in front of it. You do not dial that when you are calling from the US.

As far as why you were put into the personal meeting room, I can't answer that however there was another attendee on the meeting so I'd have to assume the link was working.

If you see this, you might have logged on before the meeting started at 6:00 and 30 second.

Waiting for host to start the webinar 

Exit 

From what I can see, neither the waiting room or the breakout rooms were enabled for that meeting.

Hopefully it was just a glitch in the matrix. Unless Dan can provide more information.

[Quoted text hidden]

James Doolittle
IT - Town of South Hadley
413-538-5030 x6124
Room G1



Dan Pease <dpease@southhadley.ma.gov>

Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 3:51 PM

To: James Doolittle <jdoolittle@southhadley.ma.gov>

Cc: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadley.ma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>

Hi Everyone,

It looks like the link posted on the BOH agenda is for the Zoom2 Personal Meeting Room. This is not a waiting room as that wasn't set up for this Webinar. It is a link that is used for people to directly meet with someone on the Zoom2 license and should not be used. Moving forward, please make sure that the Attendee link is copied from within the Webinar you create under the 'Details' or 'Invitations' tab.

As for people joining from their phone and looking to speak during public input, I would recommend putting something on your agenda or having the Chair explain to dial *9 to raise your hand if you are requesting to speak. I'm assuming this won't come up as often if the correct link is posted in the agenda so it's up to you how you'd like to handle that.

I think that should answer the issues that came up last night but if you have any other questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks,

Dan Pease

Cable Studio Director

South Hadley Community Television

413-315-3515

www.shctv15.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadley.ma.gov>

Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 3:23 PM

To: Dan Pease <dpease@southhadley.ma.gov>

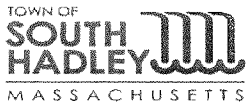
Cc: James Doolittle <jdoolittle@southhadley.ma.gov>, Sharon Hart <shart@southhadley.ma.gov>, Georgina Maende <gmaende@southhadley.ma.gov>

Thanks Dan,

Jen..

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Fwd: Feedback on BOH mtg tonight 4/8/25

Dan Pease <dpease@southhadleyma.gov>

Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 3:51 PM

To: James Doolittle <jdoolittle@southhadleyma.gov>

Cc: Sharon Hart <shart@southhadleyma.gov>, Jennifer Jernigan <jjernigan@southhadleyma.gov>

Hi Everyone,

It looks like the link posted on the BOH agenda is for the Zoom2 Personal Meeting Room. This is not a waiting room as that wasn't set up for this Webinar. It is a link that is used for people to directly meet with someone on the Zoom2 license and should not be used. Moving forward, please make sure that the Attendee link is copied from within the Webinar you create under the 'Details' or 'Invitations' tab.

As for people joining from their phone and looking to speak during public input, I would recommend putting something on your agenda or having the Chair explain to dial *9 to raise your hand if you are requesting to speak. I'm assuming this won't come up as often if the correct link is posted in the agenda so it's up to you how you'd like to handle that.

I think that should answer the issues that came up last night but if you have any other questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks,

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OPINION

Big Tech is exploiting teens with addictive social media feeds. We can stop it.

Our kids are being barraged with algorithm-driven posts that have been called 'human fracking'

by CYNTHIA CREEM and BILL MACGREGOR

March 27, 2025



PARENTS AND TEACHERS have always had to fight to hold and direct teenagers' attention—to get them to engage in conversation at family dinner, to encourage them to put down the video game controller and pick up a book, to make sure they do their homework instead of gossiping all night with friends. Teenagers themselves have long fought to avoid distractions and focus their attention where they needed or wanted it to be.

But something has changed in the last decade or so. It's no longer a fair fight. That's because social media companies have developed highly sophisticated methods of capturing and maintaining our attention. As their brains develop,

teenagers are especially vulnerable to those techniques, which also pose **significant risks to their mental health**.

Some might say we've heard this story before. Wasn't television supposed to rot children's brains in the 20th century? But the attentional pull of social media isn't the same as the draw of television. **It's far stronger**, more akin to addiction than simple distraction.

A teenager in 1998 might have blown off math homework to watch "Dawson's Creek" at 9 p.m. on Tuesday night, but the networks could only hold their attention for so long. They were broadcasting to a general audience, and the 10 p.m. offering might not have captured their interest.

In 2025, social media companies know exactly how to hold a teenager's interest. It's as if every show in the Tuesday night lineup was written and produced just for them, along with the daytime schedule and the lineup on every other weeknight. At any moment of any day, social media companies can direct today's teenager to content that's just as captivating as Dawson's Creek was in 1998.

Social media companies track how long a teenager spends looking at each post, which posts they like and comment on, when they're most likely to come online, and more. From all this **data**, they're able to target content to adolescents that is individually tailored to their interests and behavioral profile.

When young people encounter this endless stream of bespoke content, they get a series of dopamine hits that keep them on the app—and social media companies get to **sell more ads**.

Some researchers and commentators have started referring to these data and algorithm-fueled practices as "human fracking"—a high-tech way of extracting more attention from a limited supply, just as oil and gas companies have developed innovative ways to extract more fossil fuels from sources that were **thought to be exhausted**.

And just as fossil fuel fracking has wreaked havoc on the environment, the "fracking" of teenagers' attention may wreak havoc on their minds. Last year, the US Surgeon General issued an alarming **Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health**. It noted that frequent social media use is associated with changes in parts of the developing brain that are connected to impulse control, emotional regulation, and moderating social behavior. It also explained that social media has been **linked** to depression, anxiety, loneliness, sleep problems, and attentional issues in teenagers.

The advisory cited research indicating that minors who spend more than three hours a day on social media face **twice the risk** of serious mental health problems. Given that teenagers spend an average of almost **five hours per day** on social media, those negative consequences may be widespread in the adolescent population.

Fortunately, Massachusetts is not powerless in the face of these harms to our children. In January, we filed legislation that would prohibit social media companies from directing content at minors through algorithms that are capable of

hijacking their attention. The bill would also prohibit social media companies from interfering with minors' sleep by sending them notifications overnight.

By prohibiting addictive algorithmic feeds for minors, we can limit the addictive power of social media and help adolescents establish more balanced relationships with technology.

Teens would still be able to use social media if the bill became law. They'd see posts from friends, posts they searched for, and posts from accounts they chose to follow, but they wouldn't see an infinite scroll of algorithmically targeted content from accounts to which they never even subscribed. The world of social media would become more finite, and it wouldn't be so hard for teenagers to pull themselves away.

The prohibition on algorithmic feeds would also protect teens from being steered toward potentially harmful content. These feeds have pushed children experiencing body image issues toward videos **promoting eating disorders**, and directed depressed teenagers to videos demonstrating how to commit suicide—often with **tragic consequences**. Without addictive feeds, struggling teenagers wouldn't be able to spiral so easily into further isolation and distress.

The Commonwealth wouldn't be the first state to pass such a law. **California** and **New York** passed their own addictive feeds prohibitions last year, overcoming vociferous opposition from Big Tech companies that were unwilling to relinquish their devastating (and profitable) hold on teenagers' attention.

In New York, opponents led by Meta and Google spent almost \$1 million on a “whisper campaign” against the addictive feeds prohibition and another bill creating safeguards related to children's personal data. We can expect similar opposition here. When it arrives, we should remember that our children are relying on us to have the courage and the wisdom to push back on Big Tech's self-motivated spin.

Parents and teachers are ready for change. **Even teenagers** are tired of social media companies robbing them of their time and attention. Let's come together to ban the destructive fracking of our children's minds.

Cynthia Creem, a Democrat from Newton, is the majority leader in the Massachusetts Senate. Bill MacGregor is a Democratic state representative from West Roxbury.

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