

Illegal Tobacco Task Force Minutes

Meeting Date: 11/19/19

Meeting Time: 10:30am

Meeting Location: 100 Cambridge Street, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B

Board Members Present: Marikae Toye (Co-Chair), Maj. Steve Fennessy (Co-Chair), Jennifer Zalnasky, Patricia Henley, Amber Villa, Michael Sweeney, Susan Terrey

Others: Dave Cahill, Collins Muniu, Josh Brabazon, Peter French, Jashim Uddin, Tyler Milton, Yussuf Osman, Brenda Mcconville, Evan Garcia, Dan Less, Scott Delaney, Maggie Cohen, Patrick Johnson, Robert Donnellan, Alex Finkel, Matt Hannigan, Jonathan Shaer

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 10:42am by Mrs. Toye
- Mrs. Toye welcomed the few members of the public who attended the days meeting and invited them time to speak to the task force later in the meeting.

Member Updates/Housekeeping Items:

- Ms. Henley of DPH gave a brief update on task force related business ongoing at her agency.
- According to Ms. Henley, task force member were invited to a POST webinar, where they will be informed on the new system. She also gave an update on the Vaping Emergency legislation and the OTC Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) standing order that is in place at pharmacies.
- There were no other member updates.

Potential Storage Solutions Discussion:

- Sgt. Pat Johnson with the MA State Police informed the task force of a potential storage space he found for ITTF and MSP seizures.
- In his presentation, he walked through verbally and visually the specs and security information of the potential space, a shipping/warehouse business, whom has space for lease on their property.
- According to Sgt. Johnson, it's a good space, but leasing/financial responsibility will have to be decided to move forward. He believes the MSP and Attorney General's office will share responsibility.
- If decided upon, the space will only be functioning for new seizure only and DOR could partner as well for their seizure storage if needed.

- Discussion was open to the task force to ask Sgt. Johnson questions on the proposed storage space. Questions included the procurement of funding and who it would come from, what funds are needed to sign the lease, who will be the leases and how long will it take to max out the space.
- After an in-depth discussion, the task force decided to postpone any voting on the storage proposal until all logistical and financial questions were answered. The task force agreed to tentatively meet again on December 19, 2019 to finalize a plan.

Destruction Conversation:

- Mrs. Toye gave the task force information on a few destruction options for seized product.
- Currently, DOR has used ProShred in the past – with some limitations due to the type of products being shredded.
- Because tobacco products will be shredded, Mrs. Toye says the price per bin increases from \$13 to \$35. Shredding tobacco requires more cleaning of equipment.
- Mrs. Toye found Pennsylvania burns their product, but only traditional tobacco. This still leaves uncertainty regarding OTP/Vaping products. She asked the task force what direction they wanted to go with and opened for questions.
- Environmental concerns were mentioned as it relates to burning supply and also questions around proper destruction of OTP and Vaping products (i.e. fire hazards, chemical hazard, etc.)
- Task force agreed to continue discussion.

Other Business:

- Mrs. Toye invited the members of the public to address the task force and ask any questions or make comments.
- Mr. Shaer of NECSEMA shared his thoughts and opinions on the on the flavored tobacco and vaping ban legislation. He asked whether the task force has stated any opinion and/or decision on the matter.
- Mrs. Toye responded stating that the task force will enforce laws as they are enacted and does not plan of issuing an opinion on those bills.
- Mr. Delaney asked that maybe the task force consider weighing in as this is a big decision that could potentially feed the illicit market. To which, Mr. Shaer added the task force's lack of response as a missed opportunity.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sweeney made a motion, which was second by Ms. Terrey and Ms. Henley. Meeting was adjourned at 11:29 by Mrs. Toye.