

Emerson Council considers smoking ban in public locations

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Emerson officials are considering moving forward with new regulations on smoking in public locations throughout the borough.

The Board of Health proposed the idea to Emerson council members, who agreed at the March 18 mayor and council meeting to further investigate the matter.

The new legislation, if passed by the governing body, may ban residents from smoking on borough ball fields, playgrounds and other recreational spots. Municipal officials are discussing whether or not the ordinance should include other products like e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco.

"The board of health is comprised of nurses, and only nurses, and they feel this is in the best interest of the borough," Councilwoman Danielle DiPaola said at the meeting.

Other council members agreed to read the template of a potential ordinance that the board submitted for review and decide if any alternations need to be made.

"I do see this as a benefit... I do think this is a good ordinance and something that we should move forward with," said Council President Scott Rivers, explaining that his only concern is how the borough would enforce the new regulations.

"I don't know that we are able to enforce this," Rivers said, mentioning that areas outside of borough schools and municipal buildings are already smoking restricted.

The idea was tabled for future discussion. In the meantime, Borough Attorney Ronald Gordon agreed to review the document provided by the Board of Health.

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