



Wakefield Board of Health Meeting Minutes 3/26/25

Call to Order: Elaine Silva – Chair, Candace Linehan – Vice Chair, Marcy McCauley – Secretary at 6:32pm.

Attendance: Elaine Silva, Chair, Candace Linehan, Vice chair, Marcy McCauley, secretary.

Administration present: Anthony Chui – Director, Daniel Thompson – Health Inspector, Melissa Lowry – Regional Public Health Nurse. Jonathon Chines – Town Council & Finance Committee, Daniel Lieber – Bylaw Review Committee & Cable Advisory Committee.

Public Engagement: Leslie Scott-Lysan: Rodenticide discussion about improving education on the subject and working with vendors and local companies to use alternatives to rodenticides.

Leslie Scott-Lysan: More detail needed under the meeting agendas going forward. Leslie comments agendas have not been posted since August 2024. Leslie also requested that Director Chui be more thorough about inspections and current dealings of the Health Department in his Director Reports. Board acknowledged requests.

Public Participation closed at 06:40PM.

Rodenticide Discussion: Anthony Chui discussed an email received regarding the use of rodenticides on town property specifically concerned with animals that eat rodents being poisoned. Daniel Lieber explains bylaw review committee started review over a year ago. Town is using various types of rodenticides, used by private individuals as well. Having met with MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources, it is determined the town can make bylaws for public property, but otherwise everything else is a public health issue since the Health Department enforces rodent issues. Zoning has also been contacted and is supportive of a potential bylaw.

Laura Kiesel, subject matter expert in rodenticide, is present to speak on the matter. Laura is founder of Save Arlington Wildlife and is a wildlife biologist. Arlington banned SGARs (Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides) on public properties and submitted home rule petition to ban SGAR's on private property. She led a presentation on the dangers of certain rodenticides and recommend they should not be used. Board discussed the current regulations we have in place, as well as alternatives and what our policy is for rodent abatement permits. Daniel Lieber recommends a slow start with first with making it illegal on public and municipal properties.

The board discussed setting up a meeting with the DPW to merge data such as how many rodent complaints we had in FY2024, how many construction projects the town had active, hot spot





TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

areas, etc. Recommended to reach out to the Arlington Health Department for their pest control plans in act currently.

Marijuana Overlay District Discussion: Daniel Lieber commented about the Marijuana Overlay District as it is an upcoming topic again at town meeting. Daniel Lieber agreed that the Board's view at last town meeting was quite compelling. The new proposal for the overlay district has expanded, and commercial use is now being argued for all permissible usages with no change in location. Daniel Lieber recommends that the town should not reconsider this proposal as it has expanded use and not adjusted anything else about the proposal. Mr. Lieber believes this is very much a public health issue and it should involve the Health Department and their advocacy. Recommends the Board of Health votes to make a recommendation at town meeting.

Board allowed public comment for liaison Parker Hamlin: Parker Hamlin commented that the overlay district would be in very close proximity to a school. This was clarified by Jonathon Chines shortly after, in which Mr. Chines stated the location of the district is about half a mile away from Odyssey Day School. School of Rock was originally next to the site but is now closed.

Board allowed public comment for Laurel Gourville: Laurel Gourville recommends collaborating with the Wake-Up Coalition, and continuing the work with them. Laurel Gourville recommends the marijuana overlay district should not be approved. Recommends the Board of health should voice its concerns at town meeting.

Director Anthony Chui recommended if the board is interested in making a statement for the Planning Board meeting on April 8th, the Board may vote to agree on a position tonight and a statement may be crafted to present to the Planning Board.

Chair Elaine Silva Motion: At this time, we do not recommend the marijuana overlay district due to the lack of data, funding, the history of the CCC (Cannabis Control Commission) and their enforcement proceedings. All in favor 3-0-0.

Health Department Budget Overview: Wakefield Town Meeting to discuss Health Department budget was conducted on March 25th, 2025 and was successful. The following covers several highlights of the meeting:

- Growing Prevention, Outreach & Youth Services with the addition of Elizabeth Parsons, who has also taken on Wake-Up Coalition.
- Submitted for the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF-PFS) grant with Melrose and Stoneham. This grant focuses on preventing substance use initiation and reducing the progression of substance use through developing prevention strategies and improving current frameworks in place.





TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Prevention & Wellness Coordinator position filled by Madhumitha Mohanraj. This position works with our Youth Action Team. Madhumitha brings a wide range of experience and support for the department.
- Social Services Coordinator position filled by Sandra Siguenza-Hache. This position works with various social service needs of our community members. Sandra brings several years of experience, as well as bilingual capabilities to the department.
- Inspectors Dan Thompson & Erin Carleo are providing a wide array of public health inspections and permit reviews while meeting state enforcement standards. Just in 2024 we have conducted 190 routine food inspections and 45 follow-up reinspections to ensure compliance with the FDA Risk Based Inspection Schedule and the MA Food Code. Department has also had 132 food establishment permits and 10 total plan reviews in 2024.
- Public Health Nurses have improved their structuring and focus areas, such as health promotion, opioid overdose prevention, summer camps and recreational safety, flu and vaccines, and communicable disease monitoring.
- Highlight of 2024 was passage of NFG (Nicotine Free Generation) proposal. Somerville, Newton, and Chelsea have also adopted and a total of 15 communities in MA have adopted NFG. Decrease in tobacco permits and youth compliance checks continue to ensure compliance and educate.

Chair Elaine Silva has commented about the need once again for CPR courses, as well as a FEMA training on organizing and training of emergency response. Director Anthony Chui will contact and inform staff who are interested in the training. Will be made available to all staff.

Health Director's Report: Public Health Nurses have developed a presentation about state camp regulations for all three communities in order for them to understand and achieve compliance with state regulations. There is a necessity for education among camp staff, training in medication administration, documentation, reporting, and general understanding of what the camps are responsible for. Sandra Brown has been working to give out naloxone and training on naloxone for all town employees which starts next week (pilot training for staff on Monday). We now have naloxone at the health department that we also give out on site. Ideally once training is completed we can make it available at all public buildings. We must track all naloxone that's given out in quantities (not who it is given to). In addition, discussed an influx of flu and Covid-19, as well as some cases of norovirus.

Adjournment: next meeting will be tentatively held on April 30th, 2025.

Chair Elaine Silva motion to close the meeting, seconded by Linehan, meeting adjourned at 8:40pm by roll call 3-0-0.





TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

