

Approved on 3/4/26

Wallingford Board of Health
45 South Main Street, Town Hall, Rm 315
Minutes of December 3, 2025

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 a.m. by Vanessa Bautista, Director of Health.

Present:

Mayor Cervoni, Dr. Smith, Medical Advisor, Kathy Neelon, Adriana Rodriguez, Isaac Cardona, Len Guercia, Tracey Weeks

Excused:

Katie Nemeth & Jeffrey Necio

Guests:

Anne Bernick, Public Health Nurse & Aimee Turner, Asst. School Superintendent.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2025 meeting was made by Isaac Cardona and seconded by Len Guercia. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Items

School Health

Assistant School Superintendent Aimee Turner provided an update on school health trends:

- The district is phasing out religious exemptions for immunizations.
- There are a significant number of students on catch-up vaccination plans.
- Schools are seeing an overall increase in general medical needs, including students with feeding tubes, diabetes, and asthma.
- There have been six 911 calls thus far, two of the six were related to drug overdoses, including one involving ketamine (horse tranquilizer).
- The district has observed an increase in hallucinogen use, including mushrooms.
- BOE continues to work closely with Youth & Social Services and CT Behavioral Health to address student mental and behavioral health needs.
- BOE is currently monitoring flu-like symptoms in schools.
- A risk behavior survey was conducted
- Smoking and marijuana use have decreased significantly among students.

Director's Report

(See attached Director's Report and PowerPoint presentation for details.)

Infectious Diseases: Anne provided an update on current respiratory illnesses, noting that COVID-19, influenza, and RSV activity has shifted throughout the fall, with COVID peaking in September, influenza beginning to rise in November, and RSV remaining low overall. She stated that this flu season is expected to be more severe and encouraged vaccination, emphasizing that it is still not too late to get the flu shot.

She also reported that WHD will likely discontinue community flu clinics, due to consistently low public turnout in recent years. East Shore Health District, which partnered with Wallingford on these clinics, also

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recommended discontinuing them. However, the flu clinic for Town employees will continue, as that clinic historically maintains strong attendance.

There was also discussion of TB monitoring as WHD continues to stay updated on local and regional TB activity.

Environmental Health: Reviewed inspection data for this period (see Slide 7 of the PowerPoint presentation). Additional updates included ongoing food, cosmetology, day care, pool, septic, well, soil testing, and nuisance complaint oversight. Tablets were purchased for all sanitarians in preparation for the transition to the FoodCode-Pro digital inspection platform, and the Part-Time Sanitarian position has been successfully filled.

Emergency Preparedness: Ongoing planning continued for the 2026 Full-Scale Exercise, including recent coordination meetings. Several CPR trainings were held for both the community and private sector partners. Preparedness activities also included routine coordination with regional partners and participation in exercises and seasonal readiness efforts.

Community Outreach: Community outreach activities included fall prevention programming and educational sessions at senior and housing authority sites, participation in several community events and health fairs, and continued involvement in coalition and partner meetings. Additional outreach is planned for the CERT Santa Event and the Festival of Trees.

Community Partnerships: Updates included progress on the Fitness Court Project through the National Fitness Campaign grant, continued collaboration with Program Planning on the SCRCOG Active Transportation Microgrant, and ongoing coordination with the Board of Education for WorkCamp 2026.

Public Health Policies: The Law Department provided a draft of the updated massage parlor ordinance. WHD submitted comments and requested revisions.

Workforce Development: Staff continued to participate in a range of professional development activities, including environmental health trainings, certification courses, and statewide conferences. Ongoing training opportunities and internship placements remain in place to support staff development.

Administrative: Administrative work this period included ongoing grant management, deployment of tablets for digital inspections, installation of AEDs and sanitary napkin disposal units in Town Hall, and the successful hiring of the Part-Time Sanitarian.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Isacc Cardona and seconded by Len Guercia. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Next Meeting:

March 4, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Bautista

Vanessa Bautista, RS, MPH
Director of Health