

**Wallingford Board of Health  
45 South Main Street, Town Hall, Rm 315  
Minutes of March 4, 2026**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:43 a.m. by Vanessa Bautista, Director of Health.

**Present:**

Mayor Cervoni, Dr. Smith, Medical Advisor, Kathy Neelon, Isaac Cardona, Tracey Weeks, Katie Nemeth, Jeffrey Necio

**Present Virtually:** Len Guercia

**Excused:** Adriana Rodriguez

**Guest:** Anne Bernick, Public Health Nurse

**Approval of Minutes:** DRAFT Minutes, December 3, 2025, were approved as distributed.

**Agenda Items**

**School Health**

The Assistant Superintendent for Special Education was unable to attend the meeting.

**Director's Report**

*(Overview of the 2025 Wallingford Health Department Annual Report. See attached Annual Report and Director's Report for additional details.)*

**Infectious Diseases:** Public Health Nurse Anne Bernick provided an overview of current communicable disease trends and surveillance activities. Respiratory illness activity was reviewed, including COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV.

Reported cases included:

- **COVID-19:** December - 90, January -70, February - 56
- **Influenza:** November - 23, December - 283, January - 82, February - 49
- **RSV:** December - 14, January - 24, February - 29

These numbers reflect the typical seasonal respiratory illness trends seen during the winter months. Continued monitoring of communicable diseases is ongoing, including surveillance of tuberculosis cases.

**Environmental Health:** An overview of Environmental Health activities included inspections of food establishments, cosmetology establishments, daycare facilities, pools, septic systems, wells, soil testing, and nuisance complaints. In 2025, the department conducted 421 inspections and investigated 98 nuisance complaints. Environmental Health continues to represent one of the department's largest operational areas

**Emergency Preparedness:** Preparedness activities included continued participation in Region 2 PHEP and ESF-8 coordination and collaboration with the Healthcare Coalition. Additional support was provided during a condominium structure fire, where coordination occurred with the American Red Cross to assist displaced residents. Planning is ongoing for the July 2026 Full-Scale Exercise.

**Community Outreach:** Community outreach activities conducted throughout 2025 included vaccination clinics at Town Hall, the Wallingford Public Library, and the Senior Center. Additional outreach included community health education programs, CPR and first aid trainings, overdose prevention education, falls prevention programming, and participation in community events and health fairs. The department also launched CredibleMind, an online mental health and wellness platform available to residents.

**Community Partnerships:** Partnership efforts included collaboration with Program Planning on active transportation initiatives and the installation of AEDs on every floor of Town Hall through a donation from the In A Heartbeat Foundation. An update was also provided on the National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court Project. The final bid package for the concrete pad will be submitted to Purchasing and has been reviewed by both the Engineering and Law Departments. A presentation will be made to the Planning and Zoning Commission to satisfy the State 8-24 review requirement for the proposed location along the Community Lake Trail. If the project continues to progress as planned, the Fitness Court is anticipated to launch July 18, 2026. An Eagle Scout project is also planned to install Stop the Bleed kits in Town buildings and assemble individual first aid kits to support emergency preparedness and public safety.

**Public Health Policies:** An update was provided on the draft Massage Therapy Establishment Ordinance, which has been developed by the Law Department. The ordinance requires designation of a Public Hearing Officer in the event of an appeal involving suspension, denial, or revocation of a massage therapy establishment license. Board members were informed that this would be a volunteer role.

**Workforce Development:** Staff continued participating in professional development opportunities including emergency preparedness training, environmental health certifications, lead prevention education, and Mental Health First Aid training. Internship opportunities continue to support workforce development efforts.

**Administrative:** The department continues managing the Public Health Workforce Development Grant and is actively monitoring additional grant opportunities to support workforce development and departmental initiatives. Training for the digital inspection platform will begin this week. Sanitarians have been issued tablets and data plans that will allow inspections to be completed electronically in the field.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Isacc Cardona and seconded by Mayor Cervoni. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**

June 3, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

*Vanessa Bautista*

Vanessa Bautista, RS, MPH  
Director of Health