Wallingford Board of Health
45 South Main Street, Town Hall, Rm 205
Minutes of September 2, 2026

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 8:44 a.m. by Vanessa Bautista, Director of Health.

Present:
Mayor Cervoni, Dr. Smith, Medical Advisor, Kathy Neelon, Isaac Cardona, Tracey Weeks, Katie Nemeth, Adriana Rodriguez

Present Virtually: Jeffrey Necio

Excused: Len Guercia

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

Approval of Minutes: Aimee Turner made a motion to approve March 4, 2026 minutes as submitted. Isaac Cardona seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Agenda Items

School Health
- Aimee Turner provided an update on student health trends, including a decline in asthma and increases in seizure disorders, G-tube feeding needs, cardiac illnesses, and concussions among male students.
- Medical exemption requests are being reviewed and discussed with parents.
- Seventeen 911 calls were reported, including 12 involving students; two were related to anaphylactic reactions, with mental health concerns also accounting for emergency responses.
- School health practices and policies are being reviewed based on legislation. Professional development topics for 2026-2027 include G-tube care, POTS, diabetes management, and psychogenic nonepileptic seizures.

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

Infectious Diseases:
- COVID-19 cases: June - 4; July - 1; August - 15. No RSV or influenza cases were reported in June, July, or August.
- Legionellosis cases: June - 1; July - 1; August - 2. Local health departments are now tasked by the State with conducting follow-up interviews.
- Two tuberculosis cases are expected to complete treatment in October.
- Upcoming immunization clinics include September 25 at the Senior Center, October 13 at the Senior Center, and October 15 Town Hall employee flu clinic.
- Director Bautista briefly noted the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; current U.S. risk remains low, and DPH continues to provide local health departments with traveler monitoring and response guidance.

Environmental Health:
- 304 inspections were completed from January through July, including 228 food establishment inspections.
- 53 public health nuisance complaints were received; 51 were resolved by the end of July.

Emergency Preparedness:
- Continued Region 2 PHEP, MRC, and ESF-8 coordination and tabletop/functional exercise planning.

- Wallingford hosted the Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise on April 1 and the Region 2 Functional POD Exercise at Sheehan High School on June 30.

Community Outreach:
- Outreach included CPR, First Aid, Narcan and health education, the Community Wellness Fair, Early Childhood Education Fair, SCOW International Celebration, Masonicare Family Day, and Garden Market.
- August activities included CPR training for the Senior Center, a public CPR class, and Garden Market outreach.

Public Health Nursing:
- Activities included suicide prevention education, CPR/First Aid, falls prevention, school health education, and mental health education.
- Bingocize was offered at the Senior Center from April through June.

Community Partnerships:
- Continued local and regional partnerships supporting prevention, referrals, coordination, and community resources; Wallingford received its HeartSafe Community redesignation in July.
- The Fitness Court was completed and the ribbon cutting was held July 18 as planned. Future work will focus on preventive programming with Youth and Social Services, Parks and Recreation, and other partners.
- An Eagle Scout partnership provided 100 first aid kits for Workcamp.

Public Health Policies:
- The local spa/massage establishment ordinance remains under review with the Law Department.

Workforce Development:
- Staff completed professional development across multiple public health areas, including Environmental Health, emergency preparedness, CPR/BLS, suicide prevention, trauma services, food safety, lead, and rabies.
- The department supported an MPH internship involving CredibleMind materials and Fitness Court outreach.

Administrative:
- Opioid Settlement expenditure report is due October 1.
- Public Health Workforce Development Grant financial and programmatic reporting for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 was submitted and approved.
- Environmental Health staff are actively using the Relevant/iFood PRO digital inspection platform and addressing implementation issues.
- A Fitness Court lessons-learned guidance document is being developed. East Haven and Durham have expressed interest, and the completed resource will also be shared with National Fitness Campaign.

Adjournment:
A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Smith and seconded by Isaac Cardona. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Next Meeting:
December 2, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Bautista

Vanessa Bautista, RS, MPH
Director of Health