



BOARD OF HEALTH

~ MINUTES ~

Monday, October 27, 2025,

Meeting PSF Community Room, 4 Fairgrounds Road, Nantucket MA, 02554

This meeting was held via remote participation using ZOOM and YouTube.

Called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Staff in attendance: Roque Miramontes, Director of Public Health; John Hedden, Chief Environmental Health Officer.

Remote Staff: Jerico Mele, Deputy Director of Health and Human Service
Tomeka Gary, Public Health Coordinator Jake Visco, Public Health Inspector; Sean Reid, Public Health Inspector; Heather Hudson, Public Health Inspector; Will Droheiem, Public Health Inspector

Members attending: Ann Smith (chair), Kerry McKenna. James Cooper, Thomas Dixon
Meredith Lepore (Vice-chair) arrived 4:36 PM

Remote Members:

Public Participant: Gary Kohner, Gaven Norton, Emily Taylor

Remote Participant: Jonathan Berry

I. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announced that this meeting is being audio and video recorded

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion:

III. NANTUCKET SURF SCHOOL-CAMP VARIANCE REQUEST

Discussion:

- Gary Kohner presented variance requests for maintenance, plumbing, sewage disposal, toilets, running water, and hand washing at Cisco Beach
- Operates **3-hour** sessions at Cisco Beach without access to running water since activities take place in the ocean
- Program is in its **26th year** with no safety issues reported in **2024** season
- Provides porta-potties and hand sanitizer at beach location, with campers typically accompanied by family members
- Tom Dixon proposed multi-year variance to reduce administrative burden while maintaining oversight through health department inspections

Action:

Motion to grant a three-year variance for Nantucket Surf School as requested with the requirement that an update from the Health Department be provided at the conclusion of each summer season. That update will describe the results of inspections as well as any developments that might require the camp operator to return to the board for explanation. (Motion by: Dixon) (Seconded by: McKenna) Carried 4-0// Smith, McKenna, Copper, Tim Dixon (Aye)

IV. ACK SURF SCHOOL-CAMP VARIANCE REQUESTS

Discussion:

- Gavin Norton requested identical variances to what was approved in the previous year at Nantucket Island Surf School for plumbing, sewage disposal, and hand washing facilities
- Program has operated for 17 years and uses same Cisco Beach location without running water
- Health department inspector found no problems during 2024 summer inspections
- Gavin emphasized early October meeting timing allows for adequate preparation time compared to previous years' late May/early June meetings
- Board granted 3-year variance with same conditions as required for Nantucket Island Surf School

Action:

Motion to grant a three-year variance for Ack Surf School as requested with the requirement that an update from the Health Department be provided at the conclusion of each summer season. That update will describe the results of inspections as well as any developments that might require the camp operator to return to the board for explanation. (Motion by: Dixon) (Seconded by: McKenna) Carried 4-0// Smith, McKenna, Copper, Tim Dixon (Aye)

V. NEXT LEVEL WATER SPORTS-CAMP VARIANCE REQUEST

Discussion:	• John Berry presented seven variance requests including medical facility, infirmary, shelter, and bathroom facilities • Operates from Town Pier with activities in Pulpit Harbor using ratio of one instructor per two students • Typically serves 14-16 students per session with two-to-one instructor ratio as goal • Cancelled four days during 2024 summer due to weather, with all participants either rescheduled to Fridays or refunded • Safety measures include Storm app monitoring, Lightning app for all coaches, pop-up tent for shelter, and wag bags as emergency bathroom fallback option • All staff hold US Coast Guard captain's licenses, first aid CPR certification, and complete 13-module training process • Mary Board members Lepore and McKenna questioned lifeguard coverage, leading to requirement for two Red Cross certified lifeguards on staff • Captain's license certifications cost \$600-\$800 per staff member but Mr. Berry agreed to additional lifeguard requirement
Action:	Motion to approve one-year variances for the seven variances as requested with the understanding that they would have two staff who are Red Cross-certified lifeguards. (Motion by: McKenna) (Seconded by: Dixon) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Copper, Tim Dixon (Aye)

VI. NANTUCKET COMMUNITY SAILING -CAMP VARIANCE REQUEST

Discussion:	• Emily Taylor, program director since 2008 entering 19th season, holds master's degree in Public Health and was recognized as 2024 outstanding program director by US Sailing • Requested single variance regarding supervision of watercraft activities under specialized high-risk activities regulations • Program is accredited by US Sailing, placing it among top 45 Community Sailing centers nationally, with accreditation renewed in 2023 • All instructors arrive with US Sailing certifications representing 55-90 hours of training depending on level, plus first aid, CPR, AED, Safe Sport, and concussion training • Emily provided detailed chart comparing lifeguard course skills to US Sailing instructor training, demonstrating equivalent coverage • Program focuses on boat-to-boat offshore rescues with all participants wearing PFDs, which differs from traditional lifeguard scenarios • Instructors complete additional 30-hour NCS orientation including water safety presentation • Nantucket Harbormaster requested to attend 2026 instructor orientation to provide additional feedback on offshore rescue protocols • Roque confirmed skills appear to be re comparable from medical provider perspective and equal level of protection is provided
Action	Motion to grant a three-year variance for Nantucket Community Sailing as requested with the requirement that an update from the Health Department be provided at the conclusion of each summer season. That update will describe the results of inspections as well as any developments that might require the camp operator to return to the board for explanation. (Motion by: McKenna) (Seconded by: Lepore) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Copper, Tim Dixon (Aye)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Action:	Motion to Adjourn at 5:08 pm. (Motion by: Lepore) (Seconded by: Dixon) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Copper, Tim Dixon (Aye)
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Submitted by: Tomeka Gary