



BOARD OF HEALTH

~ MINUTES ~

Thursday, December 18, 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; Jerico Mele, Deputy Director of Health and Human Service

Remote Staff: Andrew Shaper, Environmental Contamination Administrator; 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), Meredith Lepore, James Cooper, Thomas Dixon

Remote Members: Kerry McKenna

Public Participant: Erika Mooney, Curtis Barnes, Willa Arsenault, Dylan Metsch, Madden Myers, Steven LaRosa, Dr. Elizabeth Hallett, Dr. Kyla Bennett, Kate Garrett, Charity Benz, Clementine Kelly, Graham Bezy, Meg Ruley, Robert Bates, Ewell Hopkins, Lisa Weisen Tanner, Meghan Perry, Tom Highland, Matt Tara, Ayesha Khan, Richard Brangan, Brent Tardamela, Michelle Whan, Sophia Yelberton, Jared Benz, Jenny Cook, Aaron Myers, Kim Latlip, Elizabeth Weber,

I. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion:	None provided

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion	
Action:	Motion to approved November 18, 2025, minutes (Motion by: Lepore) (Seconded by: Smith) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Cooper, Dixon (Aye)

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion	• Roque Miramontes reported 3,200 Nantucket residents received flu vaccine so far this year compared to 4,300 last year at same time • Community experienced 2 significant flu spikes last January and February • H3N2 variant subclade K emerged after vaccine formulation was finalized, meaning it's not specifically included in this year's vaccine • Wastewater data showed big spike on December 11th, which historically predicts large case increase within 2-3 weeks • Governor extended deer hunting season by emergency order to include first 2 weeks of February and September 21st to October 1st of next year • Nantucket has estimated 100 deer per square mile, the most dense area in Massachusetts, when it should be 5-7 per square mile to reduce tick-borne disease • New state tool "Report My Meal" expected to go live in January allowing public to report suspected foodborne illness directly to state surveillance system • Very few foodborne illness reports on island last year, reflecting strong restaurant compliance and health department inspection efforts
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V. DISCUSSION OF SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGISTRATION FEES: JUSTIFICATION OF CURRENT FEE AND SUMMARY OF FEES IN NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Discussion:	• Curtis Barnes requested data on STR registration across Cape Cod towns, which ranged from \$50 (Chatham) to \$500 (Dennis) in fees • Nantucket \$250 fee is in the middle of the range • Brian Turbitt explained fee income goes into revolving fund that covers all STR-related expenses • Current expenses include GovOS registration platform (~\$84,000/year), STR compliance position with full benefits, and 50% of new building inspector position with benefits • New 10th edition building code requires building inspectors to inspect all STRs, with ~50% of new inspector's time dedicated to STR inspections • Total annual costs approaching \$250,000, making current \$250 fee appropriately set to cover service delivery costs • Town reviews all fees on year-over-year or every-other-year basis to ensure appropriate pricing
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VI. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING: HUMMOCK POND WATERSHED REGULATION AMENDMENT

Discussion	• Kerry McKenna explained general direction was to align all 4 water protection districts with similar language and recommendations • Hummock Pond and Wellhead Protection District regulations were updated to match language in other Nantucket water protection districts • Willa Arsenault from Nantucket Land and Water Council expressed support for proactive approach to protect public water supply • Arsenault suggested adding specific variance clause language to address financial burdens while closing gaps that allowed many variance requests previously • Dylan Metsch requested plain language summary of changes and rationale document, noting redline version is inaccessible for non-professionals • Board agreed to create plain language summary and rationale document before final vote • Dylan Metsch will present potential housing impacts to Select Board on January 7th • A second Town legal review will occur prior to final vote
Action:	Motion to continue the Human Pond Regulation discussion and the wellhead protection district water regulation discussion, to continue the public hearing uh to January 15,2026meeting. (Motion by: Mckenna) (Seconded by: Dixon) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Cooper, Dixon (Aye)

VII. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING: WELLHEAD PROTECTION DISTRICT REGULATION AMENDMENT

Discussion	• Kerry McKenna explained general direction was to align all 4 water protection districts with similar language and recommendations • Hummock Pond and Wellhead Protection District regulations were updated to match language in other Nantucket water protection districts • Willa Arsenault from Nantucket Land and Water Council expressed support for proactive approach to protect public water supply • Arsenault suggested adding specific variance clause language to address financial burdens while closing gaps that allowed many variance requests previously • Dylan Metsch requested plain language summary of changes and rationale document, noting redline version is inaccessible for non-professionals • Board agreed to create plain language summary and rationale document before final vote • Dylan Metsch will present potential housing impacts to Select Board on January 7th • A second Town legal review will occur prior to final vote
Action:	Motion to continue the Human Pond Regulation discussion and the wellhead protection district water regulation discussion, and to continue the public hearing uh to January 15,2026meeting. (Motion by: Mckenna) (Seconded by: Dixon) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Cooper, Dixon (Aye)

VIII. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL ATHLETIC FIELDS ON NANTUCKET

Discussion	• Dr. Elizabeth Hallett reported School Committee voted 4-1 on Tuesday evening to support synthetic turf field for Vito Capozzo Stadium renovation project • Existing grass field has over 1,200 hours of usage per year when there should be no more than 800 hours to maintain viability • School plans to test exact turf directly from manufacturer to ensure no added PFAS is present • Modern synthetic turf designed with advanced drainage systems including permeable backing, compacted aggregate base layer, and perforated pipes directing water to closed stormwater management system • Walk-off mats at all field access points and regularly maintained drainage catch basins will capture loose
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	fibers and particles • Steven LaRosa from Weston and Samson Engineers reviewed testing data showing no detectable individual PFAS at detection limit 10 times below Massachusetts soil standards • Steven LaRosa reported total organic fluorine concentrations were non-detect at 1 part per million, approximately 100 times less than consumer product ban concentrations • Steven LaRosa recommended sampling and analyzing actual batch being shipped to island before installation to verify results • Dr. Kyla Bennett challenged testing methodology, noting total organic fluorine detection limit of 10 milligrams per kilogram (10 million parts per trillion) is insufficient when PFAS regulated in parts per trillion • Dr. Kyla Bennett noted EPA said there is no safe level of PFOA and PFOS, and targeted test results on infill and pad ranged from 200-2,300 parts per trillion • Dr. Kyla Bennett cited Notre Dame calculation that 1 artificial turf field can contaminate 800,000 gallons of water annually above EPA limits • Dr. Kyla Bennett stated 76% of turf sampled by Dr. Graham Peaslee's lab had PFOA • Kate Garrett requested Meredith Lepore formally recuse herself due to Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law, citing her employment with Nantucket Public Schools and prior public advocacy against artificial turf • Multiple student athletes testified about injuries on grass fields, including season-ending finger fracture, ankle injuries from holes, and torn muscles • Madden Myers reported over 30 student quotes about injuries on grass fields and noted no injuries since moving practices to Nobadeer turf fields • Clementine Kelly noted over 70% of NHS student body participates in sports, making athletics critical for mental health and substance abuse prevention • Robert Bates, retired firefighter, warned about PFAS health impacts including cancers, liver damage, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, weakened immune systems, and pregnancy complications • Robert Bates noted Massachusetts has bill S.2187 in legislature to ban PFAS-laden fields, and Boston has already banned them • Ewell Hopkins from Oak Bluffs Planning Board shared that Martha's Vineyard implemented ban (not moratorium) and committed to grass fields despite utilization challenges • Dr. Philip Landrigan from Boston College cited multiple hazards: extreme heat (over 130 degrees Fahrenheit recorded above synthetic fields), MRSA infections, and chemical exposures including styrene (neurotoxic) and butadiene (causes leukemia and lymphoma) • Dr. Philip Landrigan noted World Health Organization determined PFAS can cause testicular cancer and disposal costs tens of thousands of dollars as hazardous waste after 10-15 years • Meg Ruley testified as impacted party from Tom's Way where every well was contaminated with some of highest PFAS levels in Massachusetts in 2023, leading to class action lawsuit • Meg Ruley noted town installed municipal well filtration at cost of over \$4 million this year • Graham Veasey argued turf tested non-detect down to 0.012 parts per billion and does not materially increase PFAS exposure beyond background levels • Tom Highland existing NPS soil tested in 2021 showed higher PFAS than proposed turf • Tom Highland noted NFL/MLB fields see fewer than 100 hours of use per season with unlimited resources, while Nantucket has multiple fields with 1,300 hours/year usage • Tom Highland stated proposed turf would eliminate need for hundreds of pounds of fertilizer and reduce water use by more than 1.7 million gallons per year per field • Town counsel will be present at special meeting, and date will be determined based on room availability and counsel schedule •
Action:	Motion to open up a public hearing (Motion by: Cooper) (Seconded by: Lepore) Carried 4-1// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Cooper (Aye) Dixon (No) Motion to reconsider the public hearing (Motion by: Dixon) (Seconded by: Lepore) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Cooper, Dixon (Aye) Motion to schedule a special meeting (Motion by: Cooper) (Seconded by: Lepore) Carried 4-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Cooper, (Aye) Dixon (No) Motion to schedule a special meeting as soon as can be arranged in January (Motion by: Cooper) (Seconded by: Lepore) Carried 4-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Cooper, (Aye) Dixon (No) Motion to reconsider the scheduling a public hearing vote for PFAS Turf field (Motion Cooper) (Seconded by: Lepore) Carried 4-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Cooper, (Aye) Dixon (No) Motion to schedule a special meeting at our earliest possible opportunity (Motion by: Cooper) (Second by: Lepore) Carried 4-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Cooper, (Aye) Dixon (No)

IX. 58 ARKANSAS AVE. BETTERMENT LOAN RELEASE

Discussion	John Hedden let the board know that finance department informed the Health Department that the loan has been paid off and lien needs to be removed
	Motion to release the lien on 58 Arkansas Ave.(Motion by: Dixon) (Seconded by: Lepore) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Dixon, Cooper (Aye)

X. 39 BARTLETT ROAD, 66/19-SEPTIC LOAN REQUEST SEWER CONNECTION

Discussion	- John Hedden informed the board that this is a loan request to connect to sewer - This is not the homeowner's primary address but he did grow up in the home and the son is the on who purchased the home. - One of the parents still lives in the home to which John Hedden recommends the full amount be approved for a year-round resident.
	Motion to approve the loan for 39 Bartlett Rd (Motion by: Cooper) (Seconded by: Dixon) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Dixon, Cooper (Aye)

XI. INTER-ISLAND PUBLIC HEALTH EXCELLENCE COLLABORTATIVE MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERATION

Discussion	- Jerico Mele explained collaborative is shared services organization with Martha's Vineyard municipalities and Gosnold Island - Organization shares expertise on tick-borne illness, epidemiology, public health nursing, and other collaborative efforts - State changed agreement structure from MOU (memorandum of understanding) to IMA (intermunicipal agreement) this year - IMA has potential for reduction in authority or regionalization of some Board of Health areas and uncertain fiscal obligations - Legal review confirmed IMA has exit clause allowing Nantucket to leave with no limitations after 90 days' notice - Jerico Mele personally recommended participation as part of collaborative effort to share expertise and work in larger framework
	Motion to have the chair sign on behalf of the board of health a continuing relationship with this collaborative (Motion by: Cooper) (Seconded by: Lepore) Carried 5-0// Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Dixon, Cooper (Aye)

XII. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Discussion	- Andrew Shapero reported 3 new detections over state standard of 20 parts per trillion since November meeting - Maine Avenue in Madaket detected at 22 parts per trillion - Sesachacha Road detected at 24 parts per trillion (property owner planning to retest) - Fulling Mill detection at 106 parts per trillion (imminent hazard level) now added to map 5 new detections below state standard and 14 non-detects for PFAS 6 - MassDEP sampled on island on Tuesday, December 16th at Fulling Mill area and Hummock Pond Road (site of April imminent hazard detection) - Over 500 wells tested on island to date - Fulling Mill area showing multiple detections, increasing confidence there's contamination source in that area - Next public information session on surface water and foam sampling results scheduled for January 22, 2026 at 5:30 PM (online only) - Previous PFAS health effects presentation by Dr Tamarra and James-Todd held last week with strong attendance
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XIII. ADJOURMENT

Discussion:	Motion to adjourn at 6:25 (Motion by: Cooper) (Seconded by: Lepore) Carried 5-0//Smith, Lepore, McKenna, Dixon, Cooper(Aye)
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