



Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM
REMOTE ONLY

Agenda

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, the meeting and public hearing will be conducted with remote opportunities for participation. Remote participation and access methods include:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM. Location: Remote Only
- B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- C. Public may comment through email: amyers@watertown-ma.gov
- D. Please Visit the Board of Health Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/176/Board-of-Health>
- E. Join Zoom Meeting
<https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/83188312663>
Meeting ID: 831 8831 2663

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1. Call to Order
 2. Acceptance of Minutes
 - A. Review of Draft Minutes of July 16, 2025
 3. Public Comment
 4. Approval of permit application for:
 - A. VidaVinci – 66 Galen Street
 5. Review of Tobacco Regulations
 - A. Discussion related to checklist.
 6. Staffing and Department Updates
 - A. Body works
 - B. Rodents
 - C. Staff updates
 - D. Department updates
 7. Items that could not be anticipated before meeting
 8. Next meeting
 9. Adjournment

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
REMOTE ONLY
MINUTES
Wednesday July 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj, Kim Netter, Jessica Malenfant

Staff: Abbey Myers, Director of Health, Maureen Foley, Administration, Reilly Ellis, Regional Tobacco Collaborative Coordinator

In attendance: Keith Crawford, Simon White, Terry Walker, Drew Chong, Brian Gallagher, Catherine Fink

CALL TO ORDER: Dominic Amirtharaj called the meeting to order 7:03 pm

Minutes

Minutes were approved for May 21, 2025

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comments

Approval of Permit applications for:

Lifemine Therapeutics – 66 Galen Street

Simon White, Triumvirate gave a presentation about the lab's activities and safety precautions. Dr. Amirtharaj asked about the timeline to receive a USDA permit with the use of fungi. Lifemine will not be using strains that require a USDA permit initially. Ms. Myers stated Lifemine will receive a permit with restrictions until Lifemine has a USDA permit.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve.

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

TACs Bio Sciences – 19 Coolidge Hill Road

Keith Crawford, gave a presentation about the lab's activities and safety precautions. The company uses adult stem cells. Dr. Amirtharaj inquired about what is your end game. Dr. Crawford stated they are looking at the size and density in blood.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve.

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

General Fluidics – 313 Pleasant Street

Terry Walker, VP of Assay Development, gave a presentation about the lab's activities and safety precautions. Dr. Amirtharaj inquire what is this development for. Mr. Walker stated it will be for commercial use.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve.
(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Topo Therapeutics – 99 Coolidge Avenue

Drew Chong, Owner, gave a presentation about the lab's activities and safety precautions. Lab uses small molecule with human cell lines. Dr. Amirtharaj inquired about the activator.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve.
(Amirtharaj, Malenfant) (3,0)

Roll Call

Nano Diagnostics – 66 Galen Street

Catherine Fink, VP of Product Development, gave a presentation about the lab's activities and safety precautions. Nano is developing a point of service product using human blood to determine head injuries. Dr. Amirtharaj questioned the primary human blood from a hospital. He also asked if the antibodies are purchased commercially. Ms. Netter and Ms. Malenfant stated the presentation was excellent and addressed the risks.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve.
(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Tobacco Violation Hearing

Reilly Ellis, Regional Tobacco Collaborative Coordinator, stated on June 21st Arsenal Liquors sold Zinn to an underage. The underage person described the sales person who did not ask the buyers age.

Nada, owner of Arsenal Liquors is not disputing the sale to a minor. She is disputing the \$1000.00 fine and 3-day suspension. Nada has retrained her staff. Reilly Ellis states the BOH has limited powers due to the Commonwealth regulates the fines. The BOH can increase or decrease the suspension days. Nada stated Zinn has no tobacco only nicotine. Ms. Ellis stated the Commonwealth uses tobacco to include nicotine.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave a motion to uphold the 3-day suspension.
(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Review Tobacco Regulations

Reilly Ellis, Regional Tobacco Collaborative Coordinator states the City of Watertown needs to change some of the municipal regulations to align with the commonwealths.

1. Can not sell a business with many violations to a family member.
2. Can not sell cigars with roll you own tobacco.
3. Can not sell tobacco where there is a health-related office ie Optometrist.
4. Can not sell flavor enhancers.
5. There are no excise taxes on nicotine.
6. BOH could opt for nicotine free generation.
7. BOH could request no nicotine pouches more than 6mg.sold in Watertown and/or only sell in adult only retailers.
8. BOH can change the prices of single or double cigars.
9. BOH can require retailers to provide manufacturers specifications on vapes.
10. BOH can institute \$1000 for each violation or maintain \$1000, \$2000, \$5000.
11. BOH can enhance ID regulations, for instance require everyone 27 years and younger to present an ID at purchase.

Ms. Myers stated we will make decisions and have a public meeting. Ms. Myers thanked Ms. Ellis for attending and explaining the regulations.

Staffing and Department Updates

- 1 Bodyworks applications are almost completed on the online portal. The permitting and regulations go into effect August 1st.
2. Sharpes drop off kiosk is in place as of July 1st.
3. Sunscreen dispensers are in place at several parks.
4. Watertown now has a new HS director.
5. Rat complaints are increasing due to Republic Services strike.
6. Dr. Amirtharaj asked about cooling stations in Watertown.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for August 20, 2025

Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:50 PM

DRAFT

FY 2025 SAMPLE REGULATION RESTRICTING THE SALE OF NICOTINE PRODUCTS

CHECKLIST FOR POLICY DECISIONS: Highlighted → What's in current regulations

- | | | |
|---|--------------|-----|
| 1. No permit renewal if outstanding fines exist (§E.6) | YES | NO |
| 2. No permit renewal if three sales to persons under 21 (§E.7) 3. No sales to the following persons (select one): | YES | NO |
| Any person under the age of 21 (___) | | |
| *Nicotine Free Generation (___) | | |
| 4. No new permits within (---) feet of a school (§E.8) Currently 500 ft | | |
| 1,000 (___) 2,000 (___) 3,000 (___) or more (___) | YES | NO |
| 5. No new permits within (---) feet of an existing retailer (§E.8) | YES | NO |
| 1,000 (___) 2,000 (___) 3,000 (___) or more (___) | | |
| 6. Cap and/or reduce number of permits (§E.10) | YES | NO |
| Simple Cap (___) Reducing Cap (___) | | |
| 7. Ban Smoking Bars (§F) Currently have one | YES | NO |
| 8. Include minimum cigar package size/price (§H) | YES | NO |
| 9. Oral Nicotine Pouches (§G) | | |
| Prohibit more than 6 mg of nicotine per pouch | YES | NO |
| Sale restricted to adult only retailers | YES | NO |
| 10. Ban blunt wraps (§K) | YES | NO |
| 11. Ban free distribution of tobacco products (§L.1) | YES | NO |
| 12. Ban redemption of coupons (§L.2) | YES | NO |
| 13. Ban self-service displays (§N) | YES | NO |
| 14. Ban tobacco product sales in educational institutions (§R) | YES | NO |
| 15. Fining Structure System (§T) | YES | NO |
| Separate State and Local Fines (___) One Set of Fines (___) | | |
| 16. Tolling periods for local violations (§S) | YES | NO |
| State level at 36 months (___) Over 36 months (___) | | |
| 17. Choose suspension periods (§T) | | |
| First violation: 1 day (___) 3 days (___) 7 days (___) | | |
| Second violation: 3 days (___) 7 days (___) 14 days (___) | | |
| Third or more violations: 7 days 14 days (___) 30 days (___) | | |
| 18. "Shall" vs. "May" language for suspensions (§T) | SHALL | MAY |

*Nicotine Free Generation allows retailers to sell nicotine products to anyone who was 21 years of age or older on an effective date. For everyone else, now and in the future, retailers will never be allowed to sell nicotine products to them.

YELLOW highlighted sections are language copied from the latest state law and DPH regulation.
GREEN highlighted sections are uniquely local policy decisions (most are on the above checklist) to be made by the Board of Health.

