



# Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 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, February 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM. Location: Remote Only
- B. The in-person meeting will also be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television) on Comcast Channel 22 or RCN Channel 13 and can be streamed online at: <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- C. Public may comment through email: [amyers@watertown-ma.gov](mailto: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 August 20, 2025
    - B. Review of Draft Minutes of October 22, 2025
    - C. Review of Draft Minutes of November 19, 2025
  3. Public Comment
  4. Review permit application for:
    - A. Cidnam, Inc. – 200 Dexter Avenue
  5. Staffing and Department Updates
    - A. 2025 wrap up
    - B. Bodywork inspections
    - C. Department updates
  6. Additional Business
    - A. Bar 'Cino – 47 Main Street, establishment will be presenting for a food variance.
    - B. Vote on determination of food variance
  7. Items that could not be anticipated before meeting
  8. Next meeting

## 9. Adjournment

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**REMOTE ONLY**  
**MINUTES**  
**Wednesday August 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Kim Netter, Jessica Malenfant

Staff: Abbey Myers, Director of Health, Maureen Foley,  
In attendance: Linda Scott, Arshill Master

**CALL TO ORDER:** Kim Netter called the meeting to order 7:32 pm

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**Minutes**

Minutes were approved for July 16, 2025  
(Netter, Malenfant) (2,0)  
Roll Call

**Public Comment**

Ms. Scott inquired about the status of the las inspections from the health department.

**Approval of Permit applications for:**  
**VidaVinci – 66 Galen Street**

Ashill Master, Protein Scientist gave a presentation about the lab’s activities and safety precautions. Vida is targeting undruggable diseases. Ms. Netter questioned the targeting and what diseases Vida are looking at. Ms. Malenfant asked if this is IPSC based. Dr. Master stated the lab is only working on treating humans and is peptide based.

Ms. Netter gave motion to approve.  
(Netter, Malenfant) (2,0)  
Roll Call

**Review of Tobacco Regulations**

Tabled to September meeting.

**Staffing and Department Updates**

1. Deanna Earle, Health Office left the Watertown Health Department
2. Body Works letters were mailed to 17 establishments.
  - a. Inspections will be conducted with either Zoning or Police
2. Sharpes drop off kiosk is in place and box fills up 2 times a month.
3. Health has received 120 rodent complaints. Health investigate all complaints in See Click Fix and Open Gov.

- a. Commercial dumpsters are not getting emptied.
  - b. Under most circumstances, health can determine where the rodents are originating from. Due to the trash strike, it has become more difficult.
  - c. We are working with Sustainability Manager to make the pollinator gardens free of rodent harborage.
  - d. Home compose piles attract rodent activity. The Black Earth is the best way to dispose of food waste. Raised garden beds also minimize rodent activity.
4. CPR classes are continuing, and the Public Health Nurse had a sharps event on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  5. Flu vaccines are beginning to arrive with the high dose first.

Ms. Malenfant asked the sharps kiosk could be advertised on social media and at the library.

**Next Meeting**

Scheduled for September 17, 2025

**Adjournment**

Adjourned at 8:09 PM

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**REMOTE ONLY**  
**MINUTES**  
**Wednesday October 22, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj, Jessica Malenfant

Staff: Abbey Myers, Director of Public Health, Reilly Ellis, Regional Tobacco Collaborative Coordinator

In attendance: Camil Sayegh, Alberta Zoummar, Kevin DePalma, Divya Krishnamurthy, Ruiben Feng, Kevin Quigley, Mizanur Rahman

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Amirtharaj called the meeting to order 7:05 pm

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**Minutes**

Minutes for August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 were tabled until next meeting. Minutes for September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, were approved.

Dr. Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve minutes for September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

(Amirtharaj, Malenfant) (2,0)

Roll Call

**Public Comment**

No public comment

**Review of Permit applications for:**

**Psivant Therapeutics Inc. – 66 Galen St.**

Camil Sayegh, Chief Science Officer, VP Bio Discovery gave a presentation about the lab's activities and safety precautions. Dr. Amirtharaj confirmed they submitted their missing documentation.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve.

(Amirtharaj, Malenfant) (2,0)

Roll Call

**ChemPartners- 480 Arsenal Suite 160**

Kevin DePalma, Senior Research Associate, gave a short presentation of the lab's activities. ChemPartner is a CRO. The vivarium will be operable by the end of the year. It is managed and maintained by CRADL. Dr. Amirtharaj confirmed they submitted their missing documentation.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve.

(Amirtharaj, Malenfant) (2,0)

Roll Call

### **Tobacco Hearing**

Reilly Ellis, Regional Tobacco Collaborative Coordinator, stated on Monday September 29<sup>th</sup>, Independent Z sold Zyn to an underage buyer. It was stated that the salesperson did not ask the buyers age or ask for identification.

Alberta Zoummar, owner of Independence Z, is not disputing the sale to a minor. She is disputing the \$1000.00 fine and 3-day suspension. Reilly Ellis stated that the BOH has limited power in this situation as it was a state violation. Independence Z has now put software on their computers where it pops up asking to scan ID for tobacco and nicotine.

### **Determination on Tobacco Violation**

The Board determined that a violation did occur and the violation was upheld.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to uphold violation.

(Amirtharaj, Malenfant) (2,0)

Roll Call

### **Review of Tobacco Regulations**

Abbey Myers went over the FY 2025 Sample Regulation Restricting the Sale of Nicotine Products checklist for policy decisions. Reilly Ellis was on hand to answer any technical questions. Discussion on potentially taking part in Nicotine Free Generation. Board went over checklist and Abbey will use checklist to draft regulations.

### **Staffing and Department Updates**

- Department had conducted 2<sup>nd</sup> round interviews for Health Officer position. Awaiting approval from City Manager.
- Regional mosquito testing concluded in early October. Watertown is seeing a decrease in mosquito activity.
- The start of the renewal period, staff is reviewing renewals for food, tobacco, and other permits that are coming in.
- Created a group for bodywork inspections, hoping to have inspections soon.
- Potential training to send staff member for biosafety.
- Last CPR class for the year is full.
- Next sharps collection day is December 6<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Remaining Flu Clinics located at the Watertown Free Public Library

- Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3-5:30
- Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> from 10-1
- Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-1

### **Next Meeting**

Scheduled for November 19, 2025

### **Adjournment**

Adjourned at 8:12 PM

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**REMOTE ONLY**  
**MINUTES**  
**Wednesday November 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj, Chairman, Kim Netter

Staff: Abbey Myers, Director of Health, Lauren Olsen, Chief Environmental Officer, Maureen Foley,

In attendance: Hong Duan, Dan Anderson, Dina Lloyd, Charlie Breitros, Darshan Sappel, Zd Shi, Joan Gumbleton, Zigan Chen

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Amirtharaj called the meeting to order 7:33 pm

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**Minutes**

Minutes were approved for August 20, 2025, October 22, 2025 and November 19, 2025 are all tabled to December meeting.

**Public Comment**

No public comment

**Approval of Permit applications for:**  
**Foghorn Therapeutics – 99 Coolidge Avenue 501**

Darshan Sappel, Director of Biology gave a presentation about the lab's activities and safety precautions. Dr. Amirtharaj asked if Foghorn will be using virus to perform experiments.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve permit.  
(Amirtharaj, Netter) (2,0)  
Roll Call

**FTGEN – 155 Arlington Street**

Hong Duan, Biosafety Officer gave a presentation about the lab's activities and safety precautions. Zd Shi from FTGEN, stated all animal and viruses are commercially purchased.

Dr. Amirtharaj gave motion to approve permit.  
(Amirtharaj, Netter) (2,0)  
Roll Call

## **Hearing on Body Work Establishments:**

### **Sunflower Spa – 32 Mount Auburn Street**

Ms. Myers gave a presentation based on evidence found during an inspection with police, code enforcement, zoning, building, Massachusetts licensure and FBI victims unit. Massachusetts licensure charged the establishment with a \$1000.00 fine for non-permitted therapists working at the facility. Ms. Myers and Ms. Olsen stated there was evidence of sexual activity and there was confirmation the therapists lived in the establishment.

Ms. Myers presented a power point with the pictures the Health Department took during the inspection on November 12, 2025

1. Present in each massage room was mouth wash, baby wipes, used condoms, towels, plastic wrap.
2. Multiple beds in living quarters with personal items and toiletries in the rooms and shower area. The therapists admitted to living in the establishment.
3. There was an abundance of food products in the same area.

Both Dr. Amirtharaj and Ms. Netter had no questions or comments.

Zigan Chen, owner of Sunflower Spa disputed the allegations. The space Health Department determined as living space, Mr. Chen stated it is a break room for the therapists. Mr. Chen stated he plans to throw out those mattresses. The therapists have their own rentals and apartments, they do not live at Sunflower Spa. Mr. Chen stated the personal items are for daily use. He stated he has no idea where the condom came from. Mr. Chen stated the establishment is cleaned every morning for half hour and in the evening for one hour. He stated the massage room is cleaned for 15 minutes after each massage.

Ms. Olsen stated all three therapists stated they live in the facility.

Hearing Closed

### **Health Hall – 2 Bigelow Avenue**

Ms. Myers gave a presentation based on evidence found during an inspection with police, code enforcement, zoning, building, Massachusetts licensure and FBI victims unit. Ms. Myers presented a power point with the pictures the Health Department took during the inspection on November 12, 2025.

1. Present in the basement was mouth wash, personal lubricant, plastic wrap. There was a box of male catheters. Condoms were hidden behind sheet rock, in bags.
2. Multiple beds in living quarters with personal items and toiletries in the rooms and shower area.
3. There was an abundance of food products and cooking items and appliances in the same area.
4. Present in each massage room was mouth wash.

Both Dr. Amirtharaj and Ms. Netter had no questions or comments.

Closed Hearing

### **Vote on determination of Bodywork establishments**

Dr. Amirtharaj made a motion to revoke the permits of both Sunflower Spa and Health Hall for sexual and zoning violations.

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (2,0)

Roll Call

Ms. Myers stated per state law, these businesses can go to court to appeal these decisions.

### **Staffing and Department Updates**

1. Bodyworks, there were six unannounced inspections. The other 4 have building and procedural issues. Dr. Amirtharaj asked about the FBI personnel. They were Human Trafficking Task Force. Ms. Netter asked if there will be additional hearings for Bodyworks.
2. Health has a new Health Officer, Jacob Preble.
3. Vaccine clinics are done for the season. Public Health nurse delivered over 200 doses.
4. Shuang and Asma attended the Senior Health Fair.
5. Shuang has one more CPR class for 2025 and it is full.
6. Shuang is taking Biosafety Training to inspect labs.

Shout out to Lauren and Shuang for their dedication.

### **Next Meeting**

Scheduled for December 17, 2025

### **Adjournment**

Adjourned at 8:39 PM