

Town of Stoughton

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Andrew Tibbs, Chair ♦ Richard Parolin ♦ Ellen Epro ♦ Michael Varner ♦ Michael Taylor

The Stoughton Board of Health held this meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. In accordance with the Governor's order allowing public bodies to hold open meetings in person, remotely or in a hybrid fashion extended to June 30, 2027, the meeting was conducted both in person at Town Hall, 10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072, 1st floor Fitzpatrick room and by remote participation via Google Meets.

Members present:

Mr. Andrew Tibbs, Chairman Mrs. Ellen Epro Mr. Richard Parolin Mr. Michael Taylor

Member absent: Mr. Michael Varner

Also, Present:

Lawrence Perry, Town Sanitarian, Sean Leahy Asst. Town Sanitarian
Reilly Ellis, Regional Tobacco Coordinator, Maureen Buzby, Tobacco Coordinator, Stephanie Patton, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator

I. Public Hearing: 100 Page Street. C& D Facility: Minor modification request, continued from 08/21/2025.

Chairman Tibbs called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and announced the first item on the agenda is the continuation of a public hearing regarding the minor modification request from Win Waste, currently operating at the 100 Page Street facility. Mr. Tibbs explained the minor modification request involves switching 150 tons of the 800 tons that are already allotted daily to the facility. They currently collect Construction & Demolition waste and want to change part of that to Municipal Solid Waste. They are not requesting adding any additional tonnage.

Mr. Tibbs wanted to be clear this request in no way affects the Town of Stoughton DPW trash collection, or the distribution or contract with SEA MASS. He said we are not here to make any changes with trash collection in the town. We are here to decide on Win Waste's request based on the impact it will have on the health and well-being of the town's residents.

On a motion made by Mr. Parolin and seconded by Mrs. Epro, it was voted unanimously to open the public hearing.

On the vote:

Mr. Taylor – yes Mr. Parolin- yes Mrs. Epro – yes Mr. Tibbs - yes

Mr. Tibbs told the group the applicant is not present tonight and they requested another continuance. He said he will give people an opportunity to speak and any comments will be made available via the minutes of the meeting to the applicant.

Ms. Christina Ferrara, a resident of Seaver Street asked for clarification on what the Board of Health was voting on tonight. Mr. Tibbs summarized what the minor modification request involves. He said town counsel has confirmed it is a minor modification. He said the Board would vote on whether or not to approve the request, when they determine they are ready to vote. Ms. Ferrara said she maintains her stance she is not in favor of the minor modification due to concerns of odor, traffic, rodents and insects.

Mr. Parolin made a motion to disapprove of the minor modification request.

Mr. Taylor stated various reasons for opposing the request, including the Stoughton Redevelopment Authority's vocal opposition, the potential end of the lease in 2028, and concerns of neighbors. Mr. Taylor spoke about future disposal challenges and the use of odor control chemicals near public waters and wetlands.

Mr. Tibbs said he would be happy to address Mr. Taylor's concerns, but he prefers to wait until Win Waste is in attendance. Mr. Tibbs said he is just trying to avoid some of the gray areas that may not be under this Board's authority.

Mr. Tibbs reminded Board members there is a motion on the table to deny the minor modification request and asked if there was a second in order to open it up for discussion. Mrs. Epro seconded.

Mr. Parolin spoke of minutes he located from 2012 where his request for a new site assignment was ignored. He said the town previously voted not to allow municipal waste at the 100 Page Street facility. He suggested the Board does not have a right to override that vote. Mr. Parolin spoke of the trucks continually entering the facility via Page St. when they are supposed to be entering via Avon. He suggested a new site assignment is the way to go.

When Mr. Tibbs asked what Mr. Parolin's health and safety concerns are, he replied; the trucks, the smells, everything. They are not living up to the site assignment as it is.

Mr. Tibbs said this Board does not have jurisdiction of the trucks. He added, we should continue this until when Win Waste is here.

On a roll, call from Mr. Parolin's motion to deny Win Waste's minor modification request:

Mr. Taylor – no Mrs. Epro – yes Mr. Parolin – yes Mr. Tibbs – no vote*

*Parolin had stated (after chair voted against the motion) the chair could not vote & so it was stated (assuming chairman's vote did not count) that the motion passed. (Town counsel, who was not present at meeting, later reviewed the meeting video & clarified that the chairman could vote & that Parolin was mistaken.

** Mr. Parolin explained on previous Board's where he served a policy was adopted that the chairperson's vote was to break a tie. He thought that applied in this case.

On a motion made by Mr. Parolin and seconded by Mrs. Epro, it was so voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

On the vote:

Mr. Taylor – yes Mr. Parolin- yes Mrs. Epro – yes Mr. Tibbs - yes

II. Tobacco Regulations: Nicotine Free Generation information

Mr. Tibbs welcomed Reilly Ellis, Regional Tobacco Collaborative Coordinator.

Ms. Ellis shared a Power Point presentation with the Board to explain how the Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) initiative will work. It will slowly phase out the ability for those born after a designated year to purchase tobacco. This will only have an affect on sales of tobacco and tobacco products. There is no plan to make it illegal to possess tobacco products. At last check, there are 17 towns in Massachusetts adopting this ordinance, along with several states and countries.

Ms. Maureen Buzby, a colleague of Reilly's further explained the tobacco companies are targeting the younger generation because their current customers are literally dying. She went on to say, tobacco and vaping products are specifically made to appeal to a younger customer base.

Ms. Stephanie Patten, Stoughton's Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, attending virtually said Stoughton is ahead of the curve with banning the sale of some tobacco products.

Ms. Debra Roberts, a resident asked if there are any statistics on whether vaping is as harmful as nicotine.

In response to Ms. Roberts, Ms. Buzby said yes, there is a risk with using vaping products. She said those that contain nicotine do carry warning labels.

The Board thanked everyone for coming and look forward to more information in the future.

III. Variance Extension Requests

756 Washington St. - KPA dumpster pad

Mr. Perry told the Board he heard back from Mr. Connolly, the owner of the building under construction that abuts 756 Washington Street. Mr. Perry had reached out to him at the Board's request. Mr. Connolly confirmed he has an agreement with Mr. Piazza, owner of the abutting properties to pave the back parking lot and dumpster areas. According to what Mr. Connolly said, he would not be installing cement pads. That will be up to Mr. Piazza and the restaurant owners. Mr. Connolly did not provide a definite date, but hoped the paving would be before the winter.

Mrs. Karen Piazza attended virtually to speak on behalf of her husband. She said there are leases with the current business owners and it will be up to them to pay for the installation of the cement pads. She said her husband would get the contractor to do the work, but payment is to be the responsibility of the tenants. She mentioned the pads would be in by the end of October.

Mr. Tibbs said the Board does not care who pays for the work, but we appreciate it will be done by the end of October.

Mr. Kelly Francois, owner of KPA restaurant joined the meeting at this time via telephone and was informed of the discussion prior to his arrival.

On a motion made by Mr. Parolin and seconded by Mrs. Epro, it was voted unanimously to approve the dumpster variance extension through the month of October.

On the vote:

Mr. Taylor – yes Mr. Parolin- yes Mrs. Epro – yes Mr. Tibbs - yes

IV. Sanitarian Update

A. 966 Park Street – Stoughton Adult Medical Daycare Center – Sewer connection

Mr. Perry informed the Board this property has connected to town sewer. The item will no longer be on the Board's agenda.

B. 1156 Park Street – Kelley's manufactured home park septic system

There were no updates.

V. Correspondence

A. Open meeting minutes from August 21, 2025

On a motion made by Mr. Parolin and seconded by Mrs. Epro, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes with any deletions or corrections.

On the vote:

Mr. Taylor – yes Mr. Parolin- yes Mrs. Epro – yes Mr. Tibbs - yes

On a motion made by Mr. Parolin and seconded by Mrs. Epro, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

On the vote:

Mr. Taylor – yes Mr. Parolin- yes Mrs. Epro – yes Mr. Tibbs - yes

DOCUMENTS USED DURING THE MEETING:

1. Letter dated May 7, 2025 from Win Waste Innovations requesting a minor site assignment (2 pgs.)
2. Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) literature (3 pgs.)
3. Open session minutes of August 21, 2025 (5 pgs.)

Minutes of August 21, 2025 approved at this meeting