

Town of Stoughton

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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, October 16, 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 Mr. Richard Parolin Mr. Michael Varner
Mrs. Ellen Epro (arrived late)

Member absent: Mr. Michael Taylor

Also, Present:

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

Mr. Tibbs called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

I. Tobacco Regulations: Nicotine Free Generation information

Mr. Tibbs welcomed Reilly Ellis, Regional Tobacco Coordinator.

Ms. Ellis acknowledged Stephanie Patton for providing data. Ms. Ellis shared her screen with a draft regulation for tobacco control, specifically focusing on the nicotine-free generation (NFG) initiative. This initiative would slowly phase out the ability for those born after a designated year to purchase tobacco.

Ms. Ellis also explained updates to current definitions, including "bonafide purchaser for value" and "electronic nicotine delivery system," the latter being a state-required uniform definition.

Ms. Ellis outlined options for regulating oral nicotine pouches: capping nicotine content at six milligrams per pouch or restricting sales to adult-only retail establishments. The six-milligram cap was chosen based on FDA research, which found higher concentrations more detrimental.

Mr. Tibbs noted that other municipalities, such as Norwood and potentially Watertown, have adopted the nicotine cap.

Violation fines were addressed. Suggested options were to retain the current state and local fine structures from a warning for the first offense and graduated amounts for subsequent offenses with a cap at the local level at \$1,000. Possible suspensions also go along with fines.

Reilly Ellis noted that when she performs inspections she considers an educational warning in some cases. If several violations are found during an inspection however, each violation can result in a fine.

Mr. Parolin suggested the fine structure start with the first offense not only being a warning, but a warning up to \$200, and higher fines for repeat offenses.

Mr. Tibbs recapped the updated fine structure for Stoughton as:

1st offense – Warning - \$250

2nd offense - \$500

Subsequent offenses \$1,000

Ms. Epro arrived at this time. Mr. Tibbs summarized what was discussed previously.

Mr. Tibbs thanked Reilly Ellis for her presentation and said the Board will finalize the draft regulations at the next meeting and will work on a public hearing date as well.

II. Variance / Extension Requests

A. 1044 Park St. – Blue Hills Health and Rehab – Sewer/Food Permit extension request

Mr. Leahy told the Board he received a request for both the permit extensions. He asked the applicant to attend this meeting and give the Board an update. He welcomed anyone from the facility to come forward.

Mr. Andrew Grimes, Director of Operations for the facility attended virtually.

He told the Board it has been a struggle trying to finalize the sewer connection plan. He contacted every licensed contractor on the town's approved contractor list and received only two responses. He is waiting for a quote from one company.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Parolin made a motion to approve the extension request for one month, or to the next meeting. Mr. Varner seconded. On the vote:

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

III. Sanitarian Update

A. 1156 Park Street – Manufactured Home Park Septic System

Mr. Perry let the Board know an attorney for the Town has been assigned. Mr. Perry will keep the Board updated.

IV. Correspondence

A. Open meeting minutes from September 15, 2025

On a motion made by Mr. Parolin and seconded by Mrs. Epro, it was voted unanimously to approve opening meeting minutes of September 15, 2025.

On the vote:

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

B. Open meeting minutes from September 25, 2025

On a motion made by Mr. Parolin and seconded by Mrs. Epro, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 25, 2025 with any deletions or corrections*.

On the vote:

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

* Mr. Parolin asked that a statement be added to the minutes of September 25, 2025 regarding a vote taken on the Win Waste minor modification application. Mr. Parolin explained on previous Board's he served on, a policy was adopted that the chairperson's vote was to break a tie. He thought that applied in this case.

Mr. Tibbs said he did some research after the meeting and found that in the event that the chair's vote results in a tie, the chair is still able to vote. If the chair's vote does result in a tie, the motion fails. He added, what Mr. Parolin described from other boards is a courtesy rather than a rule.

Mr. Parolin told the Board that, although it is not on the agenda, Mr. Varner would like to discuss the current practice of using concrete as landfill. He explained in some cases 2 feet x 2 feet concrete pieces are being used as landfill. Past practices included using tree stumps, which can result in sinkholes.

Mr. Tibbs asked Mr. Varner what he proposed. Mr. Varner suggested consulting with experts. After a brief discussion, Mr. Tibbs said the Board could schedule it on a meeting in the near future.

On a motion made by Mr. Parolin and seconded by Mrs. Epro, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

On the vote:

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

DOCUMENTS USED DURING THE MEETING:

1. Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) literature (14 pgs.)
2. 1044 Park Street extension request emailed to Sean Leahy and Lawrence Perry by David Ayesiyenga (1 pg.)
3. Open session minutes of September 15, 2025 (1 pg.)
4. Open session minutes of September 25, 2025 (4 pgs.)

Minutes of September 15 and September 25, 2025 approved at this meeting