

TOWN OF HARWICH



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BOARD OF HEALTH
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**TOWN OF HARWICH BOARD OF HEALTH
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2025 -6:30 P.M.
HARWICH TOWN HALL – DONN B. GRIFFIN ROOM
MEETING MINUTES**

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Sharon Pflieger, M.S., Vice Chair Kevin DuPont, R.N., Clerk Ronald Dowgiallo, D.M.D. & Member Pamela Howell, R.N.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Health Director Carrie Schoener & Executive Assistant Stephanie Johnson

OTHER'S PRESENT & ONLINE: Eliza Morrison, Christine Flynn, Margo Fenn, Janet Cassidy, Jeremiah Reardon, Tyler Bridges, Adul Balde, Tom Roberts & Patrick Otton.

As required by law, the Town may audio or video record this meeting. Any person intending to either audio or video record this open session is required to inform the Chair.

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Pflieger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II PUBLIC COMMENT

A. 2024 Food Service Excellence Awards

Ms. Schoerner presented the 2024 Food Service Excellence Awards to the nominated food establishments: George's Pizza, Heart of the Sea, Subway, 3 Monkeys, Ember Pizza and Red River BBQ.

B. Presentation by Eliza Morrison from AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod

Ms. Morrison presented to the Board a summary of the various resources and programs available through the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod.

Mr. DuPont expressed his interest in connecting Ms. Morrison with Outer Cape Health Services.

Mrs. Pflieger also expressed interest in the proposed naloxone boxes in Harwich.

Ms. Schoener stated that the boxes have not been installed yet but suggested them to be in the Community Center and the women's and men's bathrooms at the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Morrison noted that the boxes are intended to saturate Cape's towns with this public health initiative to prevent and prepare communities for overdose(s). She added that the naloxone boxes allow communities to know where the public can go to receive this free resource. She highlighted that naloxone only interacts with opioids and is safe to have in the home even with young children. She also added that residents of Massachusetts have a standing order for naloxone at pharmacies and that individuals would need to verify possible co-pays.

III MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Regular Meeting Minutes)

August 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. DuPont motioned to approve the August 22, 2024 meeting minutes.

Second: Mrs. Howell seconded the motion.

Vote: Approved 3-0-0

Exhibits: August 22, 2024 meeting minutes

November 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. DuPont motioned to approve the November 19, 2024 meeting minutes.

Second: Chairwoman Pflieger seconded the motion.

Vote: Approved 3-0-0

Exhibits: November 19, 2024, meeting minutes

IV OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

V NEW BUSINESS

A. REVISION TO BOARD OF HEALTH BEDROOM DEFINITION

Mrs. Pflieger noted the only revision to the current definition was the inclusion of the word "not" so that the portion of privacy elimination would read as follows; "Including but not limited to:"

Motion: Mr. DuPont motioned to accept the revision to the Harwich Board of Health Bedroom Definition.

Second: Mrs. Howell seconded the motion.

Vote: Approved 4-0-0

Exhibits: Current Harwich Board of Health-Bedroom Definition Adopted 9.20.2022 and Proposed Revision to the Harwich Board of Health-Bedroom Definition.

B. REVISIONS TO REGULATIONS FOR PRIVATE WELLS – VOTE TO ACCEPT PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS – PERMIT FEE REMOVAL AND ADDITIONAL TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Schoener noted the only change was the removal of the fee from the regulation and the inclusion of VOCs for water quality testing requirements.

Mrs. Pfleger suggested the inclusion of PFAS testing for rental properties or properties that are being transferred.

Ms. Schoener stated the additional testing requirement for PFAS could be costly for property owners. She suggested the requirement for PFAS testing be based on the discretion of the Board or its agent(s) deems necessary.

Mr. DuPont agreed with Ms. Schoener's suggestion for PFAS testing based on the Board's discretion properties in areas where there may be potential concerning levels.

Mr. Dowgiallo asked Ms. Schoener how many consumption wells there are in town. She responded that maybe two hundred based on a high estimate and noted there is no comprehensive list as permitting began approximately twenty-to-thirty years ago.

Ms. Schoener stated she would propose a revised draft for the next Board meeting.

Motion: Mr. DuPont motioned to postpone the vote on regulations for private wells to the March 18th meeting pending additional revisions.

Second: Mrs. Howell seconded the motion.

Vote: Approved 4-0-0

Exhibits: Harwich Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells and Proposed Revision to the Harwich Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells.

VI REPORT OF THE HEALTH DIRECTOR Health Director Report for February 2025

Ms. Schoener presented the Health Director's report as provided in the packet. No action was taken.

Exhibit: Report of the Health Director

VII CORRESPONDENCE None

VIII PERMITS New Licenses listed below

MEETING DATE 02/20/2025(FILING DEADLINE 2/5/25)		
Event	BUSINESS	
Brenda Schofield/ Brenda 's Cakes For All Occasions	Harwich	

Chris Merl/Denice Lapierre/ Poor Boy Fisheries	Wellfleet	
Deb Greiner/ Cape Cod Cranberry Harvest Inc	Harwich	
Food Establishment	BUSINESS	
Devon Corliss/ TwistedPizza*	Harwich	
Septic Installer	BUSINESS	
Bradley Yochum/ Apex Excavating LLC	Harwich	
Louis R. Gallo/ Gallo Construction Company Inc.*	Sagamore	
Matthew A. Eldredge/ Matthew A Eldredge Bobcat Service and Landscape Construction	Harwich	
Rishah "Tommy" Long/ Royal Excavation*	Forestdale	
Scott Campbell/Cardinal Construction	Cotuit	
*DENOTES NEW LICENSE		

Motion: Mr. DuPont motioned to approve the permits as presented.

Second: Mrs. Howell seconded the motion.

Vote: Approved 4-0-0

A. 2025 License Renewals as Printed

Motion: Mr. DuPont motioned to approve the 2025 license renewals as presented.

Second: Mrs. Howell seconded the motion.

Vote: Approved 4-0-0

Exhibit: 2025 License Renewals

IX OTHER None

X WORK SESSION

A. Discussion with Margo Fenn and David Spitz – Update on the Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP)

Ms. Schoener noted that in the absence of David Spitz alongside Margo Fenn is Christine Flynn, Director of Planning & Development. Ms. Flynn stated that the LCP provides guidance for the Town in terms of its growth, policies and as well balancing competing land uses and even housing. She added that the LCP is intended to be utilized as a resource document for local decision makers

and Boards. From prior surveys and community engagement meetings responses notably indicated the need for setting priorities for housing, natural resource protection and water quality issues.

Ms. Fenn added that Mr. Spitz had previously presented the draft LCP to the Board and provided his findings to Ms. Fenn. She recalled that some members had expressed concerns regarding implementation of the wastewater management plan in relation to growth and providing additional housing in town.

Mr. Dowgiallo asked how the LCP initiated.

Ms. Fenn noted that under the Cape Cod Commission Act is a provision for Towns to create an LCP and noted that there are incentives for Towns. She added that the last LCP that was approved in Harwich was in 2011.

Mrs. Pfleger raised the question of land use with regards to areas that will be sewered.

Ms. Fenn noted that there will be further discussions on the matter with regards to future housing locations.

Ms. Flynn stressed the importance of implementation so that the LCP does not go stagnant.

Exhibit: Harwich Local Comprehensive Plan Preliminary Draft 12/30/2024

B. Discussion with Patrick Otton- Restriction of SGARS (Second-generation anti-coagulant rodenticides) on Town owned land

Mr. Otton began his discussion by highlighting the need for rodent control but noted the secondary effects on non-targeted wildlife species as their harmful effects move within the food-chain. He noted that in 2015 the Federal government banned the retail sale of SGARs but that it is still accessible for licensed commercial sprayers.

Mrs. Pfleger asked Mr. Otton if he was aware of the application and the rate at which SGARs are being applied in Harwich. Mr. Otton did not have the answer to her question. She replied that the transfer station is the only location in town where SGARs are applied and added that the application is limited. She then asked Mr. Otton for a potential solution for the rat population.

Mr. Otton suggested CO (carbon monoxide), dry ice, traps and other sources of poisoning.

Mrs. Pfleger countered Mr. Otton's suggestion for other sources of poisoning stating that its effects (aside from anticoagulants) have the same secondary effects.

A lengthy conversation ensued.

Ms. Schoener stated there is no home-rule advantage therefore even if the Board collectively decided to create limitations or a ban, there would be no legal authority for enactment. She added that the Board of Health would not be able to make decisions regarding the how the DPW manages the transfer station.

Mrs. Pfleger reiterated that the SGARs being applied at the transfer station are not being used discriminately and only being applied at that location.

Mr. Otton was pleased to know that SGARs are only being applied at the transfer station.

Exhibit: SGARs Second-generation anti-coagulant rodenticides handout

XI ADJOURN

Motion: Mr. DuPont motioned to adjourn the February 20, 2025, Board of Health meeting at 8:03p.m.

Second: Mrs. Howell seconded the motion.

Vote: Approved 4-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephaine Johnson

***The next Board of Health Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:30p.m. in
Don B Griffin Room.***