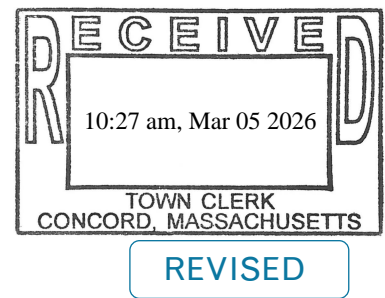


Concord Board of Health

January 21, 2026

Minutes



Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Board of Health convened in a meeting both in-person at 141 Keyes Road in the 2nd Floor Conference Room and via Zoom at 7:00 PM on January 21st, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Whalen called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Whalen confirmed that the members present were himself, Dottie Benard, David Ropeik. Portia Keady arrived shortly after the meeting started, Mark Howell and Katie Stanislawzyk were present via zoom.

Melanie Dineen, the Public Health Director was present in person. Alongside Kimberly Lombardo, the Public Health Coordinator.

Dakota Antelman from *The Concord Bridge*, was present in person.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (DECEMBER 17, 2025)

The minutes from the Board meeting held on December 17th, 2025, were presented for approval by Mr. Whalen with no changes. Upon a Motion duly made by Ms. Benard and seconded by Portia Keady, it was approved unanimously.

Roll Call to Vote:

- Mr. Whalen - Yes
- Ms. Bernard - Yes
- Ms. Keady – Yes

VOTED: All members present voted to accept the minutes of the Board of Health Meeting held on December 17th, 2025, in the form presented at the meeting.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Ropeik opens his report with an update on the Main Street Oversight Committee. He states that work on the holding basin is postponed due to manufacturing difficulties and that the project is not expected to be back on schedule until 2027. Mr. Whalen adds that this delay pushes back all related aspects of the project. Aside from the basin work, Mr. Ropeik reports that testing is still ongoing.

He also provides an update on the plume, noting that the only substance of health concern currently identified in the groundwater is 1,4-dioxane, which is tapering off. He adds that there is also some presence of depleted uranium.

Ms. Benard reports that she attended the Chairs Meeting, where she spoke briefly about disease surveillance. She also highlighted the Great Meadows Collaborative to emphasize that Concord is working in partnership with other towns.

Mr. Ropeik adds that he took the initiative to drop off a copy of the Great Meadows Report to Dakota from The Bridge, noting that he finds the demographic information about Concord to be particularly interesting.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT

Katie Stanislawzyk, the Public Health Nurse presents the December communicable disease report, highlighting cases of Hepatitis B, Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis, Influenza, Lyme Disease, COVID, latent Tuberculosis, and Enterovirus. She discusses the flu season trends, emphasizing the recent downward trend in flu cases.

Ms. Stanislawzyk shares an update on community outreach efforts, including emergency preparedness, noting that she is working alongside the Fire Department. She explains her ongoing efforts with website updates, upcoming camp inspections, and collaboration with the Medical Reserve Corps. Ms. Stanislawzyk reports that she distributed Narcan to the library, met with the high school nurse, as well as the Regional Substance Use Prevention Coordinator. She also notes that she attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Pyramid Healthcare, a new drug and alcohol treatment center in Concord.

She briefly touches on a question from the Board regarding the flu vaccine and its specific strains. Stating this year the strain H3N2 has been going around which is commonly known as the season flu. This specific strain “subclade K” is a high mutating flu, making it harder for us to have immunity. This also making it harder to match up this year’s vaccine with this strain. Ms. Stanislawzyk emphasizes that regardless of the strain, the vaccine is still protecting us against severe illness.

December 2025 Concord Communicable Disease Report

<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Disease</u>
2	Hepatitis B
2	Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis
70	Influenza
4	Lyme Disease
13	Novel Coronavirus (SARS)
1	Tuberculosis
1	Enterovirus

PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Dineen opens her report with updates on Katie Stanislawzyk and Kimberly Lombardo, noting they are in their second month of onboarding. She highlights emergency preparedness work, including her attendance at a MEMA-hosted shelter training in Natick.

She reports that staff have gone through inventory in preparation for opening an emergency shelter at the Harvey Wheeler Center. A drill is scheduled for February 20, 2026, during which the Health and Fire Divisions collaborate to recruit participants and practice opening the shelter, including an overnight model. The drill allows staff to work through logistics, SOPs, shelter job aids, staffing roles, and training needs.

Ms. Dineen emphasizes the need to document immediate needs such as medical care, pets, and safety. She notes that alternative shelter locations are being considered but require further assessment. She adds that Carlisle’s emergency plan utilizes Concord High School, which previously served as Concord’s backup location, and that shelter options require further review.

Ms. Dineen reports that the Fire Department has an emergency preparedness intern from Massachusetts Maritime Academy focused on developing the shelter job aid and supporting the drill. She notes that the emergency shelter plan requires updating post-COVID.

She announces that a second Public Health Inspector is scheduled to begin on February 2 and anticipates presenting an agent for Board approval at the next meeting.

She also reports she has been working on the annual report, FY27 budget development, and participating in additional budget hearings. In response to the absence of an inspector since October, she explains that these additional funds are being allocated in a contract with MOJIN to conduct food inspections and maintain the inspection schedule. Ms. Dineen clarifies that the recent budget change does not affect inspection frequency, noting that food inspections are risk-base.

Ms. Dineen highlights that Boardman Animal Control has submitted the required annual Barn Book, fulfilling state and Board of Health statutory requirements.

Director Dineen concludes with an update on mental health clinician outreach, stating the program is underutilized and requires increased participation. She notes that advertisements and flyers are planned. Portia suggests outreach through OB-GYN offices, and Ms. Dineen responds that Board members are welcome to assist once details are finalized.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Whalen requests a brief update on 141 Caterina Heights. Director Dineen explains that a preliminary plan was submitted today, noting that it is not the final plan as a Form C still needs to be filed. She states that daily fines are no longer being assessed, as the residents submitted a plan and are working collaboratively with the Board of Health. Ms. Dineen adds that the residents are currently working with an engineer to move the project forward and notes that if progress ceases, daily fines will resume.

Portia raises concern about the recent summer trend of the Canadian Wildfire smoke migrating to our area, she expresses her worry for the residents who struggle or may not have access to central air. Ms. Dineen assures her that DPH puts out a lot of guidance and issue air quality alerts. As well as stating she will commit to adding it to the preparedness thought process to try and find a solution.

AJOURNMENT

With no other business, Mr. Whalen adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:32 PM.

MEETING MATERIALS

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- December 17th, 2025 [Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Public Health Nurse Report](#)
- [Public Health Director Annual Report](#)
- [The Barn Book](#)