

ANDOVER BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
February 9, 2026 6:00 P.M.
3rd Floor Town Seal Room, Andover Town Offices
36 Bartlet Street

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present: Chair Dr. Deborah Enegess, M.D., Vice Chair Mr. James Bonfanti, Clerk Ms. Jennifer Darfoor, Mr. Adam Knoll, Dr. Catherine Tucker, MD, Ms. Erika Woods, Interim Director of Public Health, Ms. Sigalle Reiss, Director of Public Health at BME Strategies, Mr. Austin Simko, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, Ms. Britney Lavoie, Deputy Town Manager, and Ms. Amy Ewing, Assistant Health Director.

I. Appointments & Hearings

- **6:00 PM Appoint Ms. Erika Woods, Interim Health Director and Mr. Stephen Casey Jr., Health Agent** – Ms. Ewing informed the Board that Ms. Erika Woods has been contracted to serve as the Health Division Interim Health Director. Mr. Stephen Casey previously worked as the Health Inspector for the Town of North Andover. He currently works with the North Shore Public Health Collaborative. Mr. Casey is available for inspections on Friday afternoons when the Health Division has limited staff.

Motion by Dr. Enegess to appoint Mr. Stephen Casey as a Health Agent, and Ms. Erika Woods as Interim Health Director, seconded by Mr. Knoll. Unanimous approval.

II. Approval of Minutes

- **B. December 15, 2025**

Motion by Dr. Enegess to approve the December 15, 2025 Board of Health minutes, seconded by Dr. Tucker. Unanimous approval.

III. Discussion Items

- **C. Introduction of Interim Health Director – Ms. Erika Woods** - Mr. Austin Simko, Deputy Town Manager, informed the Board that the Town of Andover has engaged the services of BME Strategies to assist in the candidate search for a permanent Health Director. Ms. Sigalle Reiss, representing BME Strategies, attended the meeting. Ms. Reiss provided the Board with her role at BME Strategies and her work in Public Health. Mr. Austin Simko was delighted to announce the Health Division has an Interim Health Director. Ms. Erika Woods started on January 28. Ms. Woods has been a welcome addition to the Health Division. Ms. Woods presented the Board with a brief work history. Ms. Woods previously worked as the Deputy Health Director and the Interim Health Director in Barnstable County.

- **D. Meeting schedule for April – September 2026** – The Board reviewed the proposed meeting schedule and decided on the following meeting dates:
 - April 13, 2026
 - May 11, 2026
 - June 15, 2026
 - July 13, 2026
 - August 17, 2026
 - September 14, 2026

- **E. Warrant Article–Protect Andover Wildlife: Advocating for Safer Rodent Control** - Ms. Donna Cooper, Ms. Prudence Barker and Ms. Patty Brayden have proposed a Home Rule Petition regarding the use of FGARS/SGARS in the Town of Andover. Ms. Cooper is hopeful that by engaging the Town of Andover Board of Health to support the petition that it will encourage the State to mandate the prohibition of FGARS/SGARS in the State of Massachusetts. Ms. Cooper highlighted the risk to wildlife and domestic animals. The Town of Andover’s current pesticide policy states that the Town of Andover will use the least toxic method for pest control. Ms. Cooper continued that FGARS or SGARS can only be purchased by a licensed pest control business. The Save Andover Wildlife Organization is seeking the Board’s support of the proposed bylaw to limit the use of FGARS/SGARS in Andover on public and private properties. Ms. Barker clarified that the use of FGARS/SGARS should only be used as a last resort. After much discussion the Board asked for additional data from communities that have adopted bylaws prohibiting the use of FGARS/SGARS. Ms. Ewing will reach out to other communities to gather the information.

Motion by Dr. Enegeess to continue the Home Rule Petition warrant discussion to the next Board of Health meeting, seconded by Ms. Darfoor. Unanimous approval.

- **F. MAHB Certificate Program** – Ms. Woods shared with the Board a training opportunity specifically for Board of Health members. Ms. Woods continued that the cost for attending the training would be covered by the Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant. Any Board member interested please let the health staff know and we will complete the registration on their behalf.

IV. **Old Business**

- G. – N/A

V. **Subdivision Definitive Plans**

- H. - N/A

VI. Septic System Variances/Local Upgrade Approval

- **I. – LUA Request for 322 River Road to allow the SAS to be 2’ above the SHWT; 4’ Required, and to allow the use of sieve analysis in lieu of perc test.** Mr. Larry Green from McCarty Engineering, Inc., attended the meeting representing 322 River Road. Mr. Green is asking the Board to approve the LUA to allow a sieve analysis in lieu of a perc test due to saturated soil conditions during the perc testing. Mr. Green is proposing an Enviro-Septic Wastewater Treatment System (AKA Presby) in place of a standard SAS to allow for the SAS to be 2’ above the SHWT where 4’ is required by Title 5. Mr. Green explained that in order to be in full compliance with Title 5, additional fill would be required at an additional cost to the homeowner.

Motion by Dr. Enegess to approve the LUA for 322 River Road to allow for a sieve analysis in lieu of a perc test, and to allow the SAS to be 2’ above the SHWT where 4’ is required, seconded by Ms. Darfoor. Unanimous approval.

VII. Staff Reports

- **J. – Director’s Report – N/A**
- **K. – Community Health Report –** Ms. Ewing presented the December 2025 and January 2026 Community Health Report.
- **L. – Environmental Health Reports –** Ms. Ewing presented the December 2025 and January 2026 Environmental Health Report.

VIII. Board Member Reports

- N/A

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Dr. Enegess to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 7:35 PM, seconded by Mr. Bonfanti. Unanimous approval.

- **Important Dates:**

February 16, 2026 – President’s Day, Town Offices Closed
March 9, 2026 – Board of Health Meeting
March 24, 2026 – Annual Town Election

Per the New Open Meeting Law, the following is a list of the documents that were either distributed to the Andover Board of Health before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting.

02.09.2026 BOH Minutes

1. Board of Health (BOH) Meeting Agenda.
2. Memo from Ms. Ewing – Appointment of Agents to the Board of Health
3. Draft minutes from December 15, 2025
4. Memo from Ms. Woods dated January 30, 2025 – Meeting Schedule
5. Memo from Ms. Woods, Ms. Sigalle, Ms. Ewing dated February 5, 2026 – Private Article Regulating Rodenticides
6. Home Rule Petition from Protect Andover Wildlife
7. MAHB Informational Flyer
8. Memo from Ms. Ewing dated January 22, 2026– LUA Request, 322 River Rd..
9. Community Health Report – February 2026
10. Environmental Health Report – February 2026

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