



Board of Health Agenda

Date: June 18, 2025

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Health and Human Services Conference Room, 27 Maple St

1. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2025
2. UPDATES:
Director Updates
3. UPDATES:
Nursing Updates
4. UPDATES:
Environmental Updates
5. UPDATES:
Restaurant Updates

Adjourn



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BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Time: 3:30pm

Location: Conducted by Hybrid Participation in the Health & Human Services Conference Room

Board Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye Present
2. Peter Rice, Aye Present

Health Department staff, please respond in the affirmative when I call your name.

1. Charlotte Breef-Pilz, Present
2. Laura Munsey, Present
3. Jessica Kerr, Present
4. Kylee Foley, Present
5. Emma Braga, Present
6. Patrick Brennan, Present

Agenda Items

1. Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2025

Dr. Marie Walsh Condon made a correction to Recombinant DNA.

Motion made by Dr. Walsh Condon to accept the minutes as amended.
2nd by Dr. Rice.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Absent
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 2-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion.

2. HEARING – Big Daddy's 2

Director Foley presented the variance application for Big Daddy's 2. The establishment has submitted a plan review for the space at 86 Mass Ave. The kitchen is small and does not allow space for a preparation sink. The applicant is seeking a variance from the Food Code to use the 3 bay sink as a preparation sink. The applicant submitted a standard operating procedure and training document for this operation. Daljit Singh was virtually present as the representative of the establishment. Singh expressed again that there is no space in the kitchen to install a prep

sink. Dr. Rice asked about a “PIC”. Foley shared that this stands for Person In Charge, a person who is trained in food protection practices and knowledgeable of the establishment and the food code, who is present in the restaurant. Dr. Rice asked about the effectiveness of using the 3 bay sink as a prep sink. Foley shared the submitted documents outlined that the establishment would go through the proper methods of sanitation between uses of the 3 bay sink to ensure that the health of the public was not affected. Dr. Walsh Condon shared that this is fairly common in Arlington as the restaurant kitchens are smaller throughout town. Foley agreed that there are other kitchens that operate with this variance as well. The Department recommends the variance under the condition that the outlined procedure is followed.

Motion made by Dr. Peter Rice to accept the variance as submitted.
2nd by Dr. Marie Walsh Condon.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Abstain
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 2-0 in favor of the motion.

3. HEARING – Aya’s Culture Kitchen

Director Foley presented on the variance request for a specialized food process for Aya’s Culture Kitchen. A Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points Plan (HACCP Plan) was submitted as the food products are being altered. The Plan outlines making miso from fermented soybeans. The required materials were submitted with their plan, outlining the fermentation process. Aya Rowe was present virtually to represent Aya’s Culture Kitchen. Rowe shared that currently the establishment ferments soybeans to make Natto, the process for Miso is very similar. Rowe explained the process outlined in the documents. No questions or comments from the Board. The Department recommends the variance as outlined in the application.

Motion made by Dr. Peter Rice to accept the variance as submitted.
2nd by Dr. Laura White.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion.

4. DIRECTOR UPDATES

Director Foley introduced new staff member, Emma Braga, Health Compliance Officer. Braga started her role on April 22nd and has been introduced a variety of topics. Patrick Brennan has returned as the seasonal summer intern. Brennan will be focusing on leaf blower bylaw enforcement, as well as rodent and dumpster complaints. With the current phase of the Gas powered leaf blower ban the Department is averaging about 10 complaints a week, this is specifically for use of gas powered leaf blowers by commercial operators. The Bylaw was put

forward and approved at Town Meeting, including enforcement procedures and the ban's phased schedule. When there is a violation of the Bylaw, both the commercial operator and the property owner are issued citations. Dr. Rice asked about the commercial operator feedback on the Bylaw. Foley shared that the commercial operators have expressed concern about the Bylaw and enforcement. Dr. Walsh Condon asked if the gas powered and electric leaf blowers sounded the same. Dr. White responded that electric leaf blowers are much quieter. Dr. Walsh Condon asked for clarification about the current phase of the Bylaw. Foley shared that currently property owners are allowed to use gas powered leaf blowers on their own property, within the guidelines stated in the Bylaw. Starting March 15, 2026 gas powered leaf blowers will be completely banned in Arlington, except for exceptions outlined in the Bylaw. Dr. White asked if the Department had seen a decrease in the number of commercial operator violations. Foley answered that she is not able to speak to a decrease as she was not working for the Department last year, she asked Assistant Director Breef-Pilz to clarify. Breef-Pilz shared that there are a number of new companies who are receiving violations this year, which the Department had not been in communication with in years past. Dr. White asked if neighboring towns had similar policies. Breef-Pilz and Foley provided information on surrounding communities who have similar policies, but have a different timeline for a total gas powered leaf blower ban.

5. NURSING UPDATES

Nurse Kerr shared the expansion of the Vaccine for Children Program; the Department is now able to offer all childhood vaccines. The process began in January by working with the schools nurses and the regional offices, as well as creating Standardized Operating Procedures. The goal of the nursing staff throughout Town is to support students in the community and getting them enrolled in school. It is a priority for all students to have access to health care; this is accomplished by working with Arlington Public Schools to get the students set up with MassHealth. This expansion was possible because of Arlington's involvement in the Metro Public Health Collaborative with Belmont, Brookline and Newton. Vaccines can be transferred between departments to avoid waste. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has conducted two site visits to approve the program. Kerr is anticipating more need for the program in the summer and fall as students register for the new school year. Dr. Walsh Condon thanked Kerr for all her work in getting the program operating and offered assistance for residents finding healthcare locally. Dr. Rice asked where the vaccines are kept and where the vaccines are administered. Kerr answered that they are stored in Brookline and transported to Arlington as needed. The vaccines can be administered at the Health Department, the Belmont Health Department or at the schools, depending on the schedule of the family. Dr. White asked if the Department had knowledge of how the COVID-19 vaccination changes would impact the Department. Kerr shared that the Department has not provided COVID-19 vaccines to the public for a while. Arlington Public Schools does offer flu and COVID-19 vaccines, but those are contracted through a pharmacy.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

Assistant Director Breef-Pilz shared that seasonal permitting is in full effect. The Department has been conducting pool inspections for Memorial Day openings. Bathing Beaches are also going to be opening shortly; these include the Medford Boat Club and the Arlington Reservoir. Camp inspections will be underway as school ends; there are about 6 camps that will be permitted this summer.

Staff have been doing various trainings over the spring months, including Tobacco Inspection training, Body Art Facility Inspection training, Food Trucks, Housing Court, Mosquitoes and Arbovirus.

7. RESTAURANT UPDATES

Assistant Director Breef-Pilz shared that the farmers market will start on June 4th and operate every Wednesday until October. There are about 12 vendors with Food Permits. There are multiple plan reviews in process including: Big Daddy's 2, Brother's Roast Beef and Pizza, Capitol Theatre, Rush Bowls, Oakberry, Northender Italian Kitchen and Jersey Mike's. The Capitol Theatre staff has purchased the business and will continue to operate the establishment as it has been run for many years. There will be a few seasonal events including a beer garden at Jason Russell house, a summer concert series at the Arlington Reservoir and the Greek Festival, a three day event in June.

8. OPEN FORUM

Arlington Smoke Shop Representative, Irfan Modi, expressed concern over the Tobacco regulations. He expressed concern over the regulations and limitations of "Adult Only" Tobacco retail locations. He is interested in the Department and Board updating the Tobacco Regulations.

Motion to Adjourn made by Dr. Peter Rice.
Motion 2nd by Dr. Laura White.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion.