

Maynard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2025 (June Meeting)

The Maynard Board of Health met on Tuesday, July 1, 2025. In attendance were Kathy McMillan, Maura Flynn and Lisa Thuot; also from the town were Moira Carter, Public Health Nurse; Steven Silverstein, Executive Director, Municipal Services.

I. Call Board of Health Meeting to Order

A motion was made by Kathy, and seconded by Maura to open the Board of Health meeting at 6:39pm. Motion supported unanimously.

II. Public Comment

Call made for public comments; there were no comments.

III. Tobacco Sale Violations

a. Deliberation and Conclusion of Appeal of Violation by Mr. Mrugesh Patel, 49 Walnut Street, "The Corner Store"

Kathy noted that Mr. Patel admitted he had taken the course given by tobacco coalition and signed off on same. Lisa stated she did not feel comfortable coming down on the appellant for the fact of selling flavored tobacco products, as it was not being tested reasonably. Board agreed that Corner Store was selling the product at the time of the violation.

Steve explained that there were two different questions being discussed, the former a longer-term, more philosophical one, and the latter question the one that was germane to this hearing:

- 1) Does the BOH agree with the regulations on the books and their application;
- 2) In the present case did the appellant break the laws that are on the books?

The Tobacco Control Alliance (TCA) was concerned that BOH had been ok with the regulations in the past, but was now suddenly changing its views. The Board needs to decide if a violation occurred or not.

BoH agreed there needs to be a better definition of what "characterizing flavor" is and seems state as well has to get a handle on this issue, considering the marijuana industry is selling flavored products, too. BoH agreed that it appeared that owner bought the offending products in good faith, thinking that they were legal for sale according to the list the distributor provided him.

In 2023, at the time of previous violations were issued against The Corner Store, BoH waived the fine and put in place a one day suspension, on condition that the store committed no other violation within the following 36 month timeframe.

BoH then discussed what type of fine to give, i.e. whether they would accept the recommendation of the TCA or whether they would attenuate the monetary fine and/or the permit suspension component.

Kathy made a motion for a finding that the violation was committed and the fine would be suspension for 6 days with no monetary fine to begin Friday, July 4th; vote taken:

Kathy - yes
Maura – yes
Lisa – yes

BoH agreed to draft a letter informing the appellant of the finding.

IV. Resident Complaint Debris and Trash Accumulation at 3-22 Railroad Street

BoH was informed that a resident complained about the property, which, in its shared yard, has “trash piled near river, a trash mound, old appliances,” etc. It was mentioned that it is the landlord’s responsibility to clean up the trash; that there is a history with this owner for other violations; and that there is a property management company, yet the property is still unkempt. BoH agreed that a written warning should go to management/landlord informing 30 days to clean up, and if not then the town will take the property owner to court. All members were in agreement with this course of action.

V. Green Maynard correspondence

Kathy advised the Board that she has been requested to attend Select Board meeting re: Green Maynard complaints about local businesses using plastic bags in violation of town bylaws.

Kathy planned to attend the July 15th Select Board meeting and would use the opportunity to stress the fact that the town has not had a health agent in over 8 months and that Casey Mellin, temporary health agent, was used for inspections when available, but that he works through MetroWest Shared Public Health Service, which is only meant only to supplement and provide capacity building (and not to serve in place of a permanent health agent). BoH advised Green Maynard at time of bylaw vote at town meeting that it did not back the polystyrene ban as BoH didn’t not have staff to do inspections/enforcement.

VI. Update from Public Health Nurse

a. Public health report

2 cases of human granulocytic anaplasmosis, 4 cases of Lyme – Bacterial and can be spread by black legged deer ticks; 2 flu, 2 Covid-19 cases; 1 varicella/shingles. None required any action by nurse.

Community outreach and education: Moira presented the Community Health Needs Assessment to the Select Board in May; gave a mental health talk at library beginning May. Moira also participated in a climate hazard roundtable discussion with MetroWest Shared Public Health Services and MAPC. OMS started a Health Communications Board in downstairs hallway of Town Hall for public information purposes, and engaged in the Yellow Tulip project in May (with plantings at Library and The Creamery).

OMS applied for a grant through Emerson Hospital for social isolation funds and was notified of full funding of \$1,500 for a “rise and shine social pancake breakfast”. Estimated for late summer/fall, with police and fire to cook the breakfast.

Board members continue to have issues being able to log into town emails. Steve will discuss with DriveTech again.

Kathy signed the Beaver Trapping consent for Justin and Greg.

Next meeting scheduled for July 22, 2025, at 6:30pm

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 8:11pm.