

Winthrop Board of Health
Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2026, at 4:00 pm
Harvey Hearing Room, Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.

Members Present: Chair Christine Reilly, Jeanne Maggio, Mary Lou Cooney

Minutes from the Board of Health meeting of April 16, 2026, were read and unanimously approved.

Public Comment: Judy Hanlon, citizen

Per Ms. Hanlon, the “no dogs allowed” sign in the Ingleside Skate Park is gone as of 5/9. It is not there today (5/12).

- 4/18, 8:00 am, and 4/23, 10:00 am: Dogs in park.
- 5/1, 12:50: Toddlers, parents, dog in park.
- 5/4, 10:45: Dogs in park.

Sharon Sicurella from Inspectional Services contacted both Animal Control Officer Mark Van Buskirk and Parks and Recreation Director Sean Driscoll. The sign will be replaced.

The Board noted that this is a different issue from dogs on the beach. Board member Maggio also spoke with Mr. Van Buskirk, who said he would try to get more signs put up. He has had other calls from citizens. There are cameras, but the location is unknown. The responsibility of the park is with Mr. Driscoll.

The Board noted that the existing dog park in the Highlands neighborhood is too small and poorly designed.

- Get signs
- Monitor
- Educate parents, then post pictures of dog waste at the skate park in the Winthrop Transcript

Ms. Hanlon was encouraged to write a letter to the editor of the Winthrop Transcript.

Director of Public Health and Clinical Services Update: None

Commissioner of Inspectional Services Update: Sharon Sicurella

- Farmer’s Market: Foods must be labeled and should only be made in a commercial kitchen.
- Skip the Stuff: This is also before the Commonwealth. The Board agreed something should be put in writing. Ms. Sicurella has spoken to Wendy Millar-Page and will bring the issue to restaurants.

- 68 Crest Avenue: The person who performs Botox at this location must be at least a 51% owner. Ms. Sicurella went back to the Commonwealth, who had no information on her. The owner, Nichole Connors, is aware.
- Lou's Tattoos, 52 Crest Avenue: This business was already licensed, but has restarted after an absence of 4 years. Ms. Sicurella is investigating.

Letter Grading of Food Establishments and Food Trucks:

Per Ms. Sicurella:

- Letter grading starts this month.
- New Ice cream truck and hot dog cart (Yirrell Beach)

Cottage Food Regulations: This issue is still before the Commonwealth, but there is no timeline. Right now, it is at the discretion of the Board. Ms. Sicurella is getting a lot of phone calls regarding baked goods, honey, and jam. Note: the honey is harvested elsewhere.

The position of the Board regarding cottage food is that they were open to it, but fear it will add extra work to Inspectional Services. Per Ms. Sicurella, the amount of requests is not large and if a form were created, it would be manageable. The main issue is hygiene.

- All surfaces, including sinks, where food is prepared must be cleaned before and after.
- Food cannot be temperature sensitive.
- Food must be labeled.
- No children or pets may be present when food is prepared.
- Inspectional Services must inspect the area where food is prepared.

The Board should determine a fee for a license and decide how often the license should be renewed. It was noted that a part-year ice cream truck license is \$100 yearly and a brick-and-mortar restaurant is \$300 yearly.

Dogs in Ingleside Skate Park: See Public Comment above.

Proposed Agenda Items for the Next Meeting: None.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 9, at 4:00 pm.

Adjournment at 4:32 pm; approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Reilly,
Chair, Winthrop Board of Health