

Lincoln Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2026

Members Present: Fred Mansfield, MD
Steve Kanner, MD
Trish Miller
Tricia McGean

Others Present: Victoria Benalfew, Lincoln Board of Health Administrative Assistant; Melanie Dineen, Concord Board of Health Director; Olivia Dufour, Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative; Trish O'Hagan, Save Lincoln Wildlife; Staci Montori, Save Lincoln Wildlife; Carrie Stamos, Save Lincoln Wildlife

Trish O'Hagan thanked the Board for the opportunity to return and speak on behalf of Save Lincoln Wildlife.

The group shared that Lincoln municipal properties do not use SGARs or FGARs, which they commended. She also mentioned that SGARs are banned by federal law for domestic use but allowed for use by licensed pest control companies. Carrie Stamos cited reported cases of rodenticide exposure in Massachusetts and raised concerns about risks to young children, particularly where bait boxes containing pelletized poison are accessible. She emphasized the importance of education regarding safer alternatives.

They reviewed their recent activities, including:

- Identifying a pest control company that successfully utilizes non-anticoagulant methods.
- The success of a Save Lincoln Wildlife member in working with her apartment complex's management team to switch to an alternative method of pest control.

The group stated that they are considering bringing forward a Home Rule petition at Town Meeting to seek local authority for regulation of SGARs and may request Board endorsement at a later date. In the near term, they requested collaboration with the Board of Health on an educational campaign and website posting of informational materials. Drs. Kanner and Mansfield were amenable to the idea.

Dr. Kanner requested specific product names so that he could conduct some research into EPA registration details and toxicity information.

Olivia Dufour, Regional Substance Use Prevention Coordinator for the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative, provided an update on the regional opioid settlement community engagement process, while sharing slides to complement her summarization.

She reported:

- 954 total regional survey responses, including 101 from Lincoln (goal: 70).
- Approximately 50% of respondents reported personal impact from the opioid epidemic.
- The majority of respondents were Caucasian, over age 45 and predominantly female.

Focus groups included professionals, individuals with lived experience, family members, and concerned community members. Key themes included support for treatment services, stigma reduction, expanded family support resources, and improved public awareness of services.

Olivia added that she is running a mental health first aid course on January 24th at Concord Public Library, open to the whole region and which currently has approximately 20 slots left.

Discussion followed regarding Narcan distribution- the Board discussed increasing public visibility of Narcan supplies, potentially through additional public placement and educational materials. It is currently stocked at the Board of Health counter in the Town Hall.

Melanie Dineen provided her report on Board of Health activity since the prior meeting:

- 4 soil tests conducted
- 3 septic system installations
- 1 sewer line
- 5 plan reviews
- 2 school inspections
- 1 food establishment inspection (Donelan's)

Schools were found in compliance. A grease trap repair at Donelan's is being addressed in coordination with the Building Department. A candidate has accepted the Health Inspector position and is expected to begin prior to the next meeting.

Discussion occurred regarding food permitting requirements for farms. Whole, uncut fruits and vegetables are exempt from food permits; however, washing, slicing, or processing triggers regulatory requirements. Unpasteurized cider production was discussed, including labeling and HACCP considerations. Melanie Dineen will share applicable regulatory guidance.

Tricia McGean provided the Public Health Nursing report.

Statewide influenza activity is currently classified as very high and increasing. Vaccination rates in Massachusetts are low, which along with the mutation of the virus has contributed to a higher number of cases this year and the influx of patients being seen at hospitals, many of whom have required hospitalization. There have been 33 flu-related deaths in Massachusetts, including four pediatric cases. Lincoln has reported 48 flu cases and 26 COVID cases since October 1. RSV is present but less severe than influenza.

The Board discussed whether to publish a statement affirming support for Massachusetts Department of Public Health vaccine guidance. Tricia McGean will locate relevant DPH materials for review.

Additional updates included:

- Lincoln Commons food drive collected 250 items for the Lincoln Food Pantry.
- Senior Safe Program collaboration ongoing with Fire Department.

Dr. Mansfield asked to confirm the next meeting date which was set as February 18th.

Dr. Kanner motioned to adjourn. Trish Miller seconded.

Fred Mansfield - aye

Steve Kanner - aye

Trish Miller - aye

Meeting adjourned.