

June 23, 2026 BOH draft minutes

Board members participating: Chair Celia Bird, Jenny Tomczak, Kate Tracy, Bianka Cimrin, Jane Seymour and staff by Deputy Health Officer Jenny Lowell with Housing Administrator Betsy McGavisk.

Board Chair Celia Bird called the meeting to order at 5:48 pm.

Agenda

Kate made a motion to approve the agenda, striking the vote on the syringe report. Second by Bianka. Unanimous vote in favor.

Draft minutes

Jenny made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. 2nd by Jane. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Public Forum

There was one member of the public present, a reporter from the Burlington Free Press who opted not to make a public comment.

Herbicide application -McNeil Generating Station, 111 Intervale Rd

Burlington Electric's safety manager Mike Flora was present at the meeting and gave a verbal overview of the herbicide application request. Jenny made a motion to approve the application. 2nd by Bianka. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Deputy Health Officer Re-appointment of Cara Simoneau

Celia brought up Bill Ward's recommendation of Cara Simoneau as Deputy Health Officer. There was no additional discussion on that. Jane made a motion to approve the recommendation. 2nd by Kate. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Substance Abuse and Safe Syringe Disposal

Bianka and Celia discussed the email that contained the report and Bianka said she would send it out for additional review time to allow board members to comment further at the next meeting.

Health Equity

Jenny reported that the board missed the timeline for tabling at the Juneteenth event. The time of the tabling was set for 1 to 3 pm and none of the board members had availability anyway.

Celia discussed heating and cooling centers. She has started the discussion with city staff who run the centers and hopes to have them present at an upcoming meeting.

Jenny suggested having the REIB Director come to the next meeting.

Jennifer reported on railroad spraying that occurred in June, noting challenges with current sign visibility and suggesting larger campaign-style signs as a potential improvement.

Chair Report

Celia reported that she and Jenny had applied to be reappointed as Board of Health members. Both have been moved to the approval process.

Public Outreach/Communications

The board discussed two public outreach initiatives: Jennifer will draft a herbicide alert message and share it with Celia and Bill for review before distribution, while Jane will write a water safety message covering personal safety, algae blooms, and sunscreen reminders.

Adjournment

The board agreed to skip the July meeting and reschedule future meetings to September 2nd and September 30th at 5:34 PM, with the option to hold emergency meetings if needed. Bianka requested additional time to incorporate feedback into her report before moving it forward to City Council. Kate made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Bianka. Celia noted the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.