



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

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2022 APR 28 P 2:45

April 13, 2022

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

PRESENT: Michael Ristuccia, Kevin Gallagher, Heidi Hacking David Flaherty

Call to Order

- a. Chairman Michael Ristuccia, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Roll call attendance of the meeting members were taken, all members were present.

2. Welcome and Media Notification

- a. Mr. Ristuccia welcomed everyone and read the media and recording notifications and welcomed the public to speak on items.

3. Reorganization of the Board

- a. Mr. Ristuccia made the motion to appoint new board members, Ms.Hacking seconded, vote passed.

Mr.Gallagher likes tradition and believes the member in their third year should be the Chair and the tradition was broken and would like to see the tradition continue. This means Mr.Ristuccia would be the Chair for another year and then Mr.Gallagher would be the Chair the year after. Mr.Gallagher said it is important to reclaim tradition.

Mr.Ristuccia made a motion to have Mr.Gallagher be the Chair, no second, motion failed.

Mr.Gallagher made a motion that Mr.Risutccia stays as the Chair for one more year, Ms.Hacking seconded, vote passed.

Mr.Ristuccia made a motion to have Mr.Gallagher be the Vice Chair, Ms.Hacking seconded, vote passed.

Mr.Gallagher made a motion for Ms.Hacking to be the Clerk/Member, Mr.Ristuccia seconded, and vote passed.

Mr.Ristuccia let the Board know that in a month he will be starting a job in Providence and due to the traffic he may be late to the meetings. If becomes habitual, they will discuss who will be Chair, as the Chair should be here on time. Mr.Ristuccia also stated he had every intention of passing on the Chairmanship to Mr.Gallagher.

4. Minutes of the Meeting:

- a. Mr. Gallagher made the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on March 30, 2022. Mr.Ristuccia seconded the motion, vote passed. Ms.Hacking abstained as she was not a member of the Board for the March 30th meeting.

5. Health Agent Report/ COVID-19 Update

- a.** Mr. Flaherty read his report: As of April 1, 2022: Total Case Count: 4,385. The total case count for the last 14 days is 11, a decrease of 5 since April 1, 2022. The positivity rate for this period is 1.35% a decrease of 0.76%. Total number of tests in the last two weeks is 816. Vaccination Data: Total vaccinated persons -11,165. Fully vaccinated females is 6,021 and fully vaccinated males is 5,144. State-wide hospitalizations for COVID: 262; ICU admittances: 33, 15 intubated. All numbers a slightly higher than a week ago.
- b.** Homebound vaccination intake line is 1-833-983-0485.
- c.** "At home" test kits are now available online at Covidtest.gov. COVID testing is no longer being conducted by the Fairhaven Fire Department. Test kits are available at the Health Office in Town Hall. 4 Kits per residential address.
- d.** For COVID Vaccine scheduling, please visit Southcoast.org/covid-19-vaccination.
- e.** There will be free vaccination clinics during spring break. They are offered by the State and will be conducted in New Bedford. At the locations, individuals will receive a first, second or booster vaccine and will receive a giveaway.
Buttonwood Park April 23rd & 24th 9am-3pm on both days, giveaway is 2 free passes to the park. April 22nd 4-8pm and 23rd 2-8pm at Wonderbowl and the giveaway is 1 hour of free bowling. Visit Mass.gov/kidsclinic
- f.** Wellness Clinic will be at the Fairhaven COA on April 27, 2022 from 1-3p,
- g.** The Health Office has received 1200 Medication Disposal Bags and thank you to Mr.Gallagher for procuring them. These bags allow for the disposal of liquid, tablet or patch medications by carbon deactivation. The sealed bags may then be thrown away in the trash. Fairhaven Police will still accept prescription pills that are no longer needed or wanted in the kiosk at the station.
- h.** The Rabies clinics that were offered by the two Veterinary Hospitals went well, a total of 85 animals were vaccinated against rabies.
- i.** There have been no title 5 inspections. Mr.Flaherty attended a Certified Pool Operators course on April 5th and 6th and will be attending a Servsafe recertification in May. Mr.Flaherty has also started the process to apply for a grant for Hazardous Materials and recycling through DEP.
- j.** Mr.Gallagher would like to have the Medication Disposals bags on the next agenda. He would like Mr.Flaherty and Mrs.Bowers to come up with really good ideas to saturate the community with the pouches. He also said that there was a recent report of adolescent overdoses and it is mostly causes by fentanyl. This is not teenage kids looking on the street, it is beginning in the medicine cabinet at home and it is important that we minimalize that exposure and the bags are a very safe way to get rid of the medications.
- k.** Mr.Ristuccia questions the property on Sconticut Neck that had a failed septic and has recently transferred to Buzzards Bay Coalition, Mr.Risutccia was curious as to where the failed system stands. Mr.Flaherty said he spoke with Mr.Rasmussen, and there is no one living there. It is currently being sold and the area around it is

protected and there is enough space to do an upgrade to the septic system. It will be done shortly. Mr. Flaherty will be in touch with Buzzards Bay.

6. 14 Cherrystone Rd- Discussion

- a. Mr. Ristuccia said to Mr. Gallagher, a few months back Mr. Gallagher walked the property and at an older meeting the Board reaffirmed the vote to keep the Town out of a law suit and now there is one. Mr. Gallagher said his understanding is the owner of 14 Cherrystone believes he has exhausted his avenues of redress through the Town and has decided to go to court to pursue a legal review and an opinion. The Board reaffirmed their vote and the capacity on West Island isn't even close to what the government said and it is a preexisting residence. At this point, a clear conclusion will come out of the lawsuit and it will have to play itself out. Mr. Ristuccia said the best plaintiff would be our board as we are the regulatory of who is allowed to tie in and who is not and we voted to tie them in, he also believes there is a big disconnect between departments as to the ones who do the permits to dig in the street will not issue the permits it is showing the disconnect. Mr. Ristuccia would like to make a motion for the chair to speak to the Town Administrator regarding this to bring her up to speed so she knows what is going on and she can make the decision if she wants to interfere or get involved and talk to anyone, Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion, vote passed. Mr. Ristuccia said if that if this does not bring anything to fruition then he would like to bring it up again at the future meeting and possibly bring it to the Selectboard.

7. Public Comment

- a. Eleanor Chew, via zoom. She stated she is challenging the Board to take COVID off the meeting due to a low percentage. Thinks it is time to do this and only have it on the website. Disagrees we need to keep doing it, and to please stop making it the focus of the meeting and thinks it is instilling fear in people. Thinks it is time to focus on other issues such as drug addiction, homelessness, mental health issues, suicide, sex trafficking and let's focus on other health issues and concerns including naran and resources.
- b. Ms. Hacking said that before they would discuss how the meetings would look like going forward and would be still be meeting twice a month, and this is something we should put on the next agenda to see what our meeting would look like. Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Ristuccia agreed.

8. Invoices, Correspondence and Other Business

- a. Bill's and permits are to be signed at the end of the meeting.
- b. Mr. Gallagher said he would like thank Mr. Peter DeTerra for his 18 years working for the Board of Health and thank you to him for all the activates he has done for the people of Fairhaven and we wish him nothing but success. He also welcomes Heidi Hacking to the Board, a new face and a first time candidate who is well qualified and well versed. Mr. Ristuccia said it hard to replace 18 years of experience, but hopefully going forward we will have a nice rhythm.

- c. Mr.Gallgher said for the next meeting they will take a look at how they structure the agenda and Ms.Chew had a very good comment, and would be interested in feedback from the community about their interest in hearing about the COVID numbers, as much as we would like to think it's in the past there is still a thin line of light showing to keep an eye on. Mr. Gallagher would also like to talk about tick prevention and asking the Community Nurse to come in and speak on the subject, and to discuss other items and he will put together the list and forward it to the office to be sent to the chair for review.

9. Next Meeting Date: April 27, 2022 at 5:00pm

- a. Mr.Gallagher made the motion to adjourn at 5:25 pm, Ms.Hacking seconded the motion, vote passed.