



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719
Telephone: (508) 979-4023 ext. 125 · Fax: (508) 979-4079

October 12th, 2022

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

Call to Order

- a. Chairman Kevin Gallagher called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Chairman Gallagher welcomed everyone.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome and Media Notification

- a. Chairman Gallagher read the media and recording notifications, and welcomed the public to speak on items.

4. Minutes of the Meeting:

- a. Chairman Gallagher made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of September 7, 2022. All members in agreement and motion made to accept the minutes.

5. Health Agent Report

Health Agent Flaherty reports Statewide hospitalizations for COVID: 227 up from 194; ICU Admittances is 72 up from 50, 22 intubated cases up from 11 intubated.

- a. Covid Test Kits are available and the public can pick up a kit at the Board of Health office or Council on Aging.
- b. The Community Health Nurse will be offering home bound vaccinations for Covid & Flu shots for homebound residents, please call 833-983-0485.
- c. Medication disposal bags are available in the Health Office, Library, COA, Recreation Center and the Fire and Police Department.
- d. Go to South Coast Health's website for vaccine clinic information at southcoast.org/covid-19-vaccination
- e. Blood Pressure Wellness Clinic held at Council on Aging weekly on Wednesdays between 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Now weekly vs. biweekly
- f. One Title 5 System Inspection performed, and One Septic Tank Abandonment inspection.
- g. Hazardous Materials Collection Day is scheduled for October 22, 2022 between 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. located in the DPW parking lot. Details are posted on the town website and local postings around town. Latex Paint will not be accepted.

Please contact the health department for proper disposal. Covid and Medication Disposal kits will be available at the Hazardous Waste Day.

- h. Follow up on various chapter two housing inspections & complaints. Town now has a Add Hoc task force to assist with hoarding situations.
- i. Arbovirus update- Bristol County has been and remains in low risk status. County and public should remain vigilant until first hard frost.
- j. Agent Flaherty is currently working on a regulation to prohibit feeding of animals, which could be a source of rat attraction in the town of Fairhaven and the State. BOH members are requested to contact Agent Flaherty if they would be interested in having Agent Flaherty continue researching and finalizing this regulation. Possibly excluding bird feeders and Vice Chairman expresses concerns with enforcement. At this time, this is only a discussion.
- k. Animal Permit Amnesty- Agent Flaherty explains that this will provide a way to understand how many farms and domesticated animals excluding dogs and cats are in the town of Fairhaven. Agent Flaherty will request that Tractor Supply provide information on who are purchasing/selling chic's during Easter time. Animal list created and provided to Animal control for inspections.
- l. Rodent Complaints-No rodent complaints at this time. Agent Flaherty will follow up on sites that had previously reported rodent issues. Attended Yankee environmental health conference concerning food safety and Title 5 systems. Representatives from New England present and discussions regarding rodent control management. Agent Flaherty confirmed that due to draught rodent activity had become worse. Vice Chairman Heidi Hacking addresses concerns regarding prohibiting feeding of animals and enforcing this regulation. Agent Flaherty discussed due to wild life is being fed the wildlife will carry and deposit food in different locations that will attract rodents. Agent Flaherty states this is just a discussion and set in place as a policy vs. a regulation. Vice Chairman expresses concerns on setting something in place that is realistic that we cannot enforce and confirms wildlife does not benefit from being fed. She also suggests taking look at other towns policies to review what they have set in place.
- m. Chairman Gallagher discusses new Covid-19 variant Omnicron. Federal government encourages public to receive new vaccine that is specific for the Omnicron variant. Vice Chairman also recommends public to receive Flu vaccine due to increase use of mask is producing a stronger case of the Flu.

6. Appointment of New Tobacco Compliance Officer.

- a.) Chairman Gallagher discussed to appoint new tobacco enforcement agent Meghan DaCosta. Chairman Gallagher explains that no funds from town used to pay Ms. Dacosta. Member Ristuccia questions agent Flaherty on whom does Ms.DaCosta report to? Agent Flaherty discussed that Ms.DaCosta will report to Agent Flaherty. Motion to approve and accepted and all members in agreement. Mr. Gallagher

reported that earlier this year two actions took place in town and two facilities sold to minors. Motion to approve and decision is unanimous and approved.

7. Update on Town Email Address- Chairman Gallagher discussed at this time private email addresses are currently being used. He expressed that each Board member would like an individual email address. The Town Administrator approved one email address for all board members. Chairman Gallagher and member Ristuccia rejected this proposal and Chairman Gallagher will meet with the town administrator to discuss other options.

8. Public Hearing on Private Well Regulation- Chairman Gallagher requested Agent Flaherty to obtain estimates for a test on water analysis. Gallagher expresses concerns of creating a test without obtaining a cost. Agent Flaherty stated the water analysis would cost roughly One Hundred and One Hundred and Ten dollars. The water analysis would be performed during the Title 5 Inspection report. The goal would be to identify any water contamination and notify the respected new buyer. Member Ristuccia questioned if the regulation would include private wells for consumption? Agent Flaherty confirmed those wells will be excluded. Chairman Gallagher discussed there are no further concerns or comments at this time.

9. No Public Comment

- a. No public comment

10. Invoices, Correspondence & Other Business

- a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

11. Next Meeting Date: October 26, 2022 at 5:00pm

- a. Chairman Gallagher made the motion to adjourn, Ms. Hacking seconded, vote passed.

12. Future Agenda items

- a. Private Well Regulation discussion and inform public on hearing.
- b. Update on town email address
- c. Formerly discuss Animal Permit Amnesty
- d. Discuss and review plans for 88 Hedge Street