



# Town of Fairhaven

## Board of Health

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

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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

### 1. 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 Gallaher made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2023. Vice Chair, Heidi Hacking in agreement and motion accepted.

### 5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports statewide hospitalizations for COVID: 266 down from 409, ICU Admittances is 86 down from 119. 28 Intubated cases down from 46. Other statistics have been included in order to educate the public. The 14 day Positivity rate for Fairhaven is 14.9 % down from 20.6%. Case counts for the last two weeks are 29 down from 56. Since reporting began in 2020 Fairhaven has had 5288 cases. Trends seems to be going down after the holiday season.
- b. Covid Test Kits are available and the public can pick up a kit at the Board of Health office or Council on Aging.
- c. The Community Health Nurse will be offering homebound vaccinations for Covid & Flu shots for homebound residents, please call 833-983-0485.
- d. Medication disposal bags are available in the Health Office, Library, COA, Recreation Center and the Fire and Police Department.
- e. Go to South Coast Health Care Website for vaccine clinic information at

southcoast.org/covid-19-vaccination

- f. Blood Pressure Wellness Clinic held at Council on Aging weekly on Wednesdays Between 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. No Perc tests and no other Title 5 System inspections performed.
- g. Agent Flaherty reports at this time the Board of Health has completed Food Service and Tobacco establishment renewals. Good responses have kept the staff busy.
- h. Follow up on various chapter two housing inspections with focus on complaints.
- i. Arbovirus update- Hard Frost has taken place and testing season is now over.
- j. Rodent Complaints-No rodent complaints at this time received in the last two weeks.

**6) Covid Number Update-** Chairman Gallagher reports there has been a decrease in Covid numbers in the last two weeks with active Covid cases decreasing from 56 to 29. Positivity rate from a little over 20% to 15%. Gallagher states the federal government will lift the state of emergency on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 and one of the questions is if we will still have access to free test kits? Agent Flaherty confirms we will not have access to free test kits in the future. Chairman Gallagher strongly suggests to the public to obtain Covid test kits while they are available.

**7) Update on reestablishing the ability of residents to report issues or concerns regarding the Wind Turbines-** Agent Flaherty reports listed on the Health Department website the phone number and email are listed in order to receive any concerns or complaints regarding the wind turbines. Each complaint is reviewed and it is then determined if the complaint will go to DEP or Fairhaven Wind. Agent Flaherty confirms he has received two complaints and they have been forwarded to the appropriate contact at Fairhaven Wind. Agent Flaherty also reports he spoke with a direct contact at DEP who can provide technical assistance. Agent Flaherty reports the Board will keep an excel worksheet with date, time, address and symptoms that have occurred. This information will be used as a data collection for Fairhaven Wind with the hopes that the turbine intervals can be tweaked.

**8) Update on proposed Sconticut Neck Subdivision Plan-** Agent Flaherty reports a meeting took place with the Planning Board and the applicant. A letter was submitted to the Planning Board with concerns on behalf of the Board of Health. Agent Flaherty believes that they are now disregarding the Board of Health's input on this matter; however, it was the Planning

Board that requested the Board of Health's input. Agent Flaherty explains at this point the Board of Health has completed their part of the process. Vice Chair Hacking confirms the Board of Health has submitted a letter, and is no longer involved in giving an opinion on this matter. Chairman Gallagher confirms the planning board did deny the project with a six to two vote.

**9) Update on the New DEP Title 5 Regulations-**Agent Flaherty explains that a letter was crafted and tailored with the assistance of the Dartmouth Board of Health Department. This letter was submitted prior to the January 30 2023 deadline. Agent Flaherty also forwarded this letter to the State Representative Montigny and State Representative Strauss. Flaherty explains a request for a house bill that would force DEP to create a funding source if these regulations did not pass. Agent Flaherty does not believe that due to a change in regulation that no one should have to come up with \$34000. Flaherty states further research will need to be done regarding obtaining a watershed permit. A house bill that would force DEP to create a funding source for Fairhaven. Agent Flaherty explains that he spoke with someone at DEP and confirmed this will not go into effect anytime soon due to no studies have been done regarding the baseline levels of nitrogen. Agent Flaherty states he will do as much as possible so that residents. Chairman Gallagher confirms a copy of the letter that was submitted is available on the town website. Agent Flaherty explains the select board also wanted to be involved in submitting this letter however due to quorum issues they were unable to meet in a timely fashion. In time, they may create their own letter. Chairman Gallagher confirms there is a document in Boston from the town of Fairhaven stating the town is opposed to the proposal as written due to the detrimental impact to our residents.

**10) Review and Discuss Disposal System Construction Permit Lot 1 Island View Road Map 43 Portion of Lot 201 & Review and Discuss Disposal System Construction Permit Lot 2 Island View Road Map 43 Portion of Lot 201-**Agent Flaherty explains that the applicant has requested a continuance at this time. Slight revisions on the plan that include working with conservation in order to fix the wetland delineation line. Chairman Gallagher questions Agent Flaherty if he is in agreement with this? Agent Flaherty responds yes it is a good idea. Vice Chair Hacking makes the motion to approve the disposal system construction permit lot 1 & 2 on Island View Road Map continuance. Chairman Gallagher seconds that and all are in favor and this passes unanimously.

**11) Public Comment-** No public comment

**12) Invoices, Correspondence & Other Business**

a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

**13) Next Meeting Date: February 15, 2023 at 5:00pm**

**14) Future Agenda items**

- a. Update on reestablishing ability to report issues or concerns on wind turbines