



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

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FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2023 MAY 25 AM 8:54

May 10th, 2023

PRESENT: Heidi Hacking, Justine Frezza and David Flaherty, Kevin Gallagher

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.

4. Minutes of the Meeting:

- a. Chairman Gallagher made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2023. Member Justine Frezza and Vice Chairman Heidi Hacking in agreement and motion accepted. The vote is unanimous with one abstention.

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports statewide hospitalizations for COVID: 42 which previously was 139. ICU Admittances are 15 previously 29. Four Intubated cases previously Six intubated cases statewide. The 14-day Positivity rate for Fairhaven is 1.09 % previously 4.31%. Case counts for the last two weeks are zero previously five. Since reporting 2020 Fairhaven has had 5376 cases. Trends have been going down. Chairman Gallagher questions if the positive Percentage rate for Covid in Fairhaven is one percent? Agent Flaherty states yes. Agent Flaherty will continue to provide updates on Covid numbers. Chairman Gallagher states that he does find it beneficial to update the Board, media and residents of current Covid numbers and possibility of an increase in numbers. Vice Chair Hacking agrees at this time we will need to stay ahead of it vs. falling behind.

- 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 at Town Hall, Library, COA, Fire Department 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.
- g.** No Perc tests and two Title 5 System Inspections performed and One Title 5 Inspection of the system was witnessed.
- h.** Follow up on various chapter two housing inspections and complaints.
- i.** Arbovirus Update Bristol County Mosquito Control has started larvae treatment. Beginning June 1, 2023, they will begin treatment upon request and pool testing for mosquitos after Memorial Day. Ticks will also be out in force. Use Deet or use treatment with Permethrin on shoes and pant legs when out in meadows and woods. Use of treatment on skin with anti-tick chemicals should be at the advice of your pharmacist. Vice Chair Hacking questions Agent Flaherty regarding past PSA's regarding mosquitos and rodents. She wants to ensure there is plenty of education and information available to the residents.
- j.** Huttleston Market Place will be starting soon and if you like to participate with any food related items please contact this office after registering with the Fairhaven Tourism Office.
- k.** Rodent Complaints- Rodent complaints have begun. Please be vigilant with trash and birdseed on your property. Consult a licensed exterminator for property treatment in conjunction with neighbors if it seems overwhelming.
- l.** Agent Flaherty will be reviewing health fees for permits and services in order to be comparable to surrounding neighbors. Agent Flaherty explains they do not want to be too high or too low. Chairman Gallagher questions if Agent Flaherty will review the current fees and then have the Board review as well? Agent Flaherty explains there will be two consecutive public hearing meetings and then be enacted upon approval.
- m.** Agent Flaherty explains a new by-law was passed at Town Meeting. No glass or plastic nip bottles will be sold in town. Agent Flaherty explains the Board of Selectmen are the licensing authority when it comes to liquor licenses in town and the Board of Health assists with inspections.
- n.** Sunscreen Dispensers- Chairman Gallagher questions Agent Flaherty if there is an

update on the sunscreen dispensers? Agent Flaherty explains it is a little early at this time however, after June 1st 2023 they will look into having the sunscreen dispensers set up.

6) Discuss and Review 148 Dogwood Street Proposed bonus room over garage- Agent Flaherty forwarded over all the information he had to the Town Administrator. The Town Administrator did not feel the town counsel needed to be involved due to the information provided on the regulations. Agent Flaherty explains due to the manner of the West Island Sewer Zoning regulations have been written the resident would not be able to have plumbing in her garage upstairs. Agent Flaherty quotes regulation "Section 491-4 Prohibiting Connections No accessory structure including but not limited to any guest house , in law, apartment, garage, shed or any other structure not sharing a common foundation with the principle building shall be allowed after the effective date of these amending regulations at set forth in another section to connect to the sewer system whether by direction or indirectly either through a common connection to the plumbing or wastewater outflow system of any other structure. Agent Flaherty explains because this is a garage and does not share a common foundation with the principle building at the time when these regulations went through shell not be allowed to tie into the sewer. There may be other options. If she can propose a Title 5 System that will service just the upstairs garage, she can do that as long as there are no variances requested. As a matter of policy, Agent Flaherty explains the State does not grant variances for new construction because the idea is you are creating your own hardship. If she would like to propose something that has no variances. Agent Flaherty does not see why she couldn't have a septic system on site if it would just service just that plumbing in the garage. Chairman Gallagher questions Agent Flaherty if there are three qualifiers, which are no garages, and this is a garage. Needs to have a common foundation. You also cannot tap into and existing outflow structure that is located in another structure. Agent Flaherty explains there is also no allowances for variances. Agent Flaherty explains if this was allowed it could also put the town at risk to lose the funds that were given to create the sewer system on West Island. Vice Chairman Hacking questions Agent Flaherty where the outline of information he has obtained is from. Agent Flaherty states it is from the West Island Sewer Zone Regulations. Vice Chair Hacking requests a copy and explains this would be a great reference for any future applicants. Chairman Gallagher questions if there is anything in front of the board to vote? Agent Flaherty explains he was unsure of how this originally started however maybe just an opinion and deny it based on the regulations specifically 491-4. Member Frezza questions how will the applicant be notified? Agent Flaherty explains he will verbally speak to the applicant and he will also generate a letter and send it to her. Chairman Gallagher states based on the regulations the Board cannot endorse the project. Agent Flaherty will include The Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Department, Board of Public Works. Chairman Gallagher confirms the Board agrees that based on the West Island Sewer Regulations this does not meet the standards.

7) Public Comment- No Public Comment at this time.

8) Invoices, Correspondence & Other Business

a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

9) Discussion on future agenda items- Chairman Gallagher explains they would like to discuss future meeting agenda items that the Board and public would benefit from. Vice Chairman Hacking is in agreement and states what else can the Board of Health provide the public information and education on. Vice Chair Hacking believes adding an item to the agenda on what is important to the public and what do they they want to hear from us may be interesting and allow the Board to receive feedback from the public. There may be some items that the Board will not be able to take care of however it can be discussed. Agent Flaherty explains there may be some items that have a budget constraint however, he can add a different topic for every meeting. Member Frezza states prior to being on the Board of Health she did not see a lot of information even when searching for it. She believes by making this information more available it would make things a lot easier. Chairman Gallagher confirms at the next meeting there will be an agenda item to discuss future agenda items and they will be brainstorming on new ideas and solicit from the public as well. Member Frezza questions if something can be put out there asking, "What would you like to see from the Board of Health". Agent Flaherty states yes and we can put that on the town website or social media platforms. Agent Flaherty states in the future when a topic has been chosen, a link can be then added with resources and additional information.

10) Next Meeting Date: May 24, 2023 at 5:00pm

11) Future Agenda items

a. Discuss and review topics and ideas that are important to the public