



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

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FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2023 JUN 8 PM 2:54

May 24th, 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 May 10, 2023. Member Justine Frezza and Vice Chairman Heidi Hacking in agreement and motion accepted. The vote is unanimous.

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports statewide hospitalizations for COVID: 43 which previously was 42. ICU Admittances are 20 previously 15. Six Intubated cases statewide. The 14-day Positivity rate for Fairhaven is 10.0 % previously 1.09%. Case counts for the last two weeks are zero previously zero. Since reporting 2020 Fairhaven has had 5381 cases. Trends have been going down. Agent Flaherty explains the numbers look like they have gone way up however it is a blip and it is nothing to be concerned about.
- 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 one 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 along with the Building Department.
- i. Arbovirus Update- Bristol County Mosquito Control Project has continued their larva side treatments to wetlands and swamps for mosquito larva. Pool testing will begin after Memorial Day and requests for yard treatments will be taken after June 1, 2023. Ticks will be out in force. Agent Flaherty recommends using Deet or treatment for skin. Permethrin for shoe and pant legs when out in meadows and woods.
- 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- Agent Flaherty reports a few rodent complaints have come in. 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 spoke with Martha Reed the Council on Aging Director and will be scheduling a monthly speaking event to help educate seniors and caregivers with current and ongoing public health topics and questions. Vice Chair Hacking questions the monthly talks. Agent Flaherty thinks it would be a good idea to educate the senior population. He wants to help get the correct information to them in addition, explain what a Health Agent and the Board of Health does. Chairman Gallagher states to Mr. Flaherty if he does find a trend or overwhelming issue, can Agent Flaherty create a video response and post on the website.

6) Review and Discuss Title 5 Inspection 1 Pavillon Way- Agent Flaherty witnessed the inspection at 1 Pavillon Way. It is an advanced denitrification system. All components were operating as designed. There was a large stone deck built on top of the tank however, a riser was installed in the deck to allow access to pumping or any other parts. The inspector passed the inspection. Chairman Gallagher questions if there is anything required from the Board. Agent Flaherty states the Board would need to vote to accept. Chairman Gallagher questions the Board if has any questions for Mr. Flaherty? There are no questions and Vice Chair

Hacking makes the motion to accept the recommendation of the Health Agents recommendation for the passed inspection for 1 Pavillon Way. Motion is made and seconded by Board member Frezza. All in Favor and motion accepted. Chairman Gallagher states a few months ago there were discussions with changes regarding Title 5 Regulations and if there is an update to that? Agent Flaherty explains there has been some state legislators that has put a halt to the proposed regulation changes. Agent Flaherty has spoken with D.E.P. and they explained they are more focused on the Cape and the Islands vs. the South coast. Agent Flaherty explains Fairhaven is 97% sewerred. Chairman Gallagher questions if there is anything pending? Agent Flaherty states at this time No and will not be for years.

7) Discuss weekly Board of Health related topics for educational purposes. Chairman Gallagher explains The Board of Health had placed a social media post requesting some input from the public. Mrs. Frezza confirms and explains she had also shared the post as well and received feedback. Member Frezza explains one of the comments were to end the Covid report out. She agrees and thinks that in the fall it would be a good idea to revisit. Agent Flaherty explains the Covid report has changed greatly since he first began reporting. Vice Chair Hacking would like to be notified if there has been a spike in the numbers and Chairman Gallagher confirms. Board Member Frezza states the next comment was more information or education on homelessness, food insecurity, human trafficking, drug and alcohol issues and solutions for each. Board Member Frezza thinks using the town website and group websites would be a great way to share information and resources. Agent Flaherty inquires if there is something specific to be keyed in on? Vice Chair Hacking believes picking one different topic a month would be suffice. Agent Flaherty explains there are many resources available however it may be difficult to find that information. Agent Flaherty believes creating a tab that would guide people to each resource would be beneficial. Chairman Gallagher confirms the focus of the end of May and June will be on food insecurity. Vice Chair Hacking confirms they can discuss a schedule for upcoming topics for the year. Member Justin Frezza states they were two more topics one being CCIT training for individuals suffering from mental health crisis for any EMT personnel. Member Frezza also reported that someone commented and agreed with mental health first aide in addition to basic information about preventative best practices such as nutrition, exercises, sleep outside time etc. Even some short videos with graphics with information on suggestions and connections to local resources and events. Agent Flaherty questions if the Fire Department already provides resources on how to handle these situations? Chairman Gallagher states that private EMS services have access to critical stress debriefing resources in an event that they are staffed for. Member Frezza questions if there is some sort of mandatory training. Chairman Gallagher explains there is something called TEAMS and in the case of an event, they would contact an official and they would come in and do a debriefing. Chairman Gallagher states these are all very good suggestions. Member Frezza states there was one more comment on the original post. She states they wrote having mental health resources easily accessible would be great. There was also a question of having addiction resources or helpful information available at stores. Also a suggestion of a flyer. Agent Flaherty confirms this would be up to the business but he does believe they would want to support the community. Agent Flaherty explains there

is a current QR code that is available and can be used as a link to provide additional resources and information.

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

9) Invoices, Correspondence & Other Business
a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

10) Next Meeting Date: June 7, 2023 at 5:00pm

11) Future Agenda items
a. Food Pantry Resources & Information