



# Town of Fairhaven

## Board of Health

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

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2023 SEP 14 PM 12:04

August 30, 2023

PRESENT: Kevin Gallagher, Justine Frezza, David Flaherty

### 1. Call to Order

- a. Chairman 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. **Motion:** Member Frezza made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting August 16, 2023. Chairman Gallagher seconded. The vote is unanimous and motion accepted.

### 5. Discuss and vote on the organization of Board members

- a. **Motion:** Agent Frezza made a motion to continue this agenda item until the vacancy has been filled for the Board of Health. Chairman Gallagher seconded and motion accepted. The vote is unanimous and motion accepted.
- b. Chairman Gallagher noted that the Board of Health will hold a joint meeting with the Select Board on September 18, 2023 to appoint the vacancy on the Board of Health. Chairman Gallagher thanked the Select Board for allowing this time, in order that any residents interested can submit a letter to the Select Board.

### 6. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID numbers continue to go down and according to the state website there are 10 cases in the last two weeks. COVID Test Kits are no longer available. Please visit the local pharmacies for test kits.
- b. Medication disposal bags are available in the Health Office at the Town Hall, Library, COA, Rec Center, Fire Department and Police Department.

- c. Blood pressure and wellness clinics offered every Wednesday at the COA from 1-3 pm.
- d. Four Perc tests were witnessed and no Title 5 were witnessed.
- e. Agent Flaherty, in conjunction with the building dept, followed up on various Chapter II housing issues.
- f. The final beach water testing was completed and all beaches passed. This is the end of testing as the swimming season is ending.
- g. Arbovirus update – Bristol County Mosquito Control continues to take requests for yard treatments. No humans have tested positive for EEE, but 2 human cases of WNV have been identified in the state, but not in this area. WNV has been found in mosquito pools in Raynham and Easton, but not in Southern Bristol County. Ticks are out in force. Deet should be used and another treatment with permethrin should be used 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 the pharmacist. Please check the Fairhaven Health Department website for an updated PSA.
- h. Rodent complaints are stabilized but a few are still being reported. 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.
- i. Local restaurants have responded well to Health Inspector Tom Hemmingway's vigilance with outside dumpster areas. There is a noticeable improvement around town.
- j. Chairman Gallagher verified with Agent Flaherty that there are about 70 beach tests performed during the swim season and only one exceedance detected. Chairman Gallagher noted this is excellent news.

- 7. Discuss weekly Board of Health related topics** – the website is still being worked on.
- 8. Title 5 inspection report of 1 Crow Island** – Agent Flaherty witnessed a Title 5 septic system inspection. The system is in failure due to proximity to estimated high ground water. The owner has a plan to tie into sewer as well as a septic system design plan, in order to determine which option they want to proceed with. Agent Flaherty noted the owner will have two years to fix the issue.
- 9. Title 5 inspection report of 282 Mill Rd** – Agent Flaherty stated this will be a raise and replace. Agent Flaherty had the septic system inspected before the building is torn

down and fortunately the septic is in good condition. This property will also need to have a well report, but there is currently no electricity at the location to obtain a water sample. Agent Flaherty will request the well water test be performed when the owner applies for the certificate of occupancy.

- 10. Title 5 septic plan of 41 Nakata Ave** – Agent Flaherty reviewed the plan and noted there are no other options at this location for a septic system. There is a septic tank with a leach pit, which is sitting in groundwater. Agent Flaherty noted the only option is to have a tight tank. Agent Flaherty would recommend accepting this plan. Chairman Gallagher explained that the Board of Health now votes to accept the Health Agent’s recommendation as the Health Agent is certified to review these plans. The Board will vote to accept Agent Flaherty’s recommendation. **Motion:** Member Frezza made a motion to accept Agent Flaherty’s recommendation to the septic plan at 41 Nakata Ave. Chairman Gallagher seconded. The vote is unanimous and motion accepted.
- 11. Discuss Chapter II hearing for 236 Adams St** – Agent Flaherty has been in touch with the proposed contractor. The contractor expects to start work in the next two weeks. There is a line of communication with the contractor and Mr. Clunie, which is good. Agent Flaherty thanks Mr. Medeiros for his continued help. Chairman Gallagher appreciates there has been communication, but does not want the work to keep being delayed. If work does not begin there may need to be a deadline to start the work.
- 12. Discuss Chapter II hearing 6 Evergreen St** – Agent Flaherty noted there are no updates or resolution. This will be continued in a joint Executive Session with the Select Board on September 18, 2023.
- 13. New Fee Schedule for the department** – Agent Flaherty did an analysis to compare the surrounding towns. Agent Flaherty noted that Food Service and Retail are currently all paying the same fee. Larger establishments require longer inspection time, and in order to reflect the accurate cost of the inspection there should be a different fee. Agent Flaherty proposes basing the fee on the number of seats in a restaurant and for retail the square footage of the building. There also needs to be a fee for Body Art. Agent Flaherty will need to do an analysis of the surrounding towns and determine a proposed fee for body art. Member Frezza would also like to see the same fee schedule for the Cabins, Hotels, Inns, Motels and B&Bs. This would be determining the fee based off the number of rooms. Agent Flaherty would like to continue this to the next meeting to review the changes as discussed and then the next step would be to have a public meeting regarding the fee schedule.
- 14. Public Comment** – No public comment at this time.

**15. Invoices, Correspondence and other business**

- a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

**16. Next Meeting Date** – September 13, 2023 at 5:00pm.

**17. Future Agenda Items**

**18. Adjourn – Motion:** Member Frezza made a motion to adjourn. Chairman Gallagher seconded. The vote is unanimous and motion accepted.