



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719
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September 13, 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 30, 2023. Chairman Gallagher seconded. The vote is unanimous and motion accepted.

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID numbers, according to the community nursing, is at 32 cases total in Fairhaven. COVID Test Kits are no longer available at the town offices. Agent Flaherty looked into getting more, but there are no longer any free kits. 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. No Perc tests were witnessed and no Title 5 inspections were witnessed.
- e. Agent Flaherty followed up on various Chapter II housing issues.

- f. Arbovirus update – No humans have tested positive for EEE, but 3 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.
- g. Rodent complaints are still being reported, but have leveled off. 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.
- h. Fairhaven residents qualify for a free home-bound flu vaccine offered by the Greater New Bedford Health Alliance to provide an in-home vaccine. Please call the Health Department for more information.
- i. The Greater New Bedford Health Alliance will also be offering a car seat inspection program. This will be offered October 7th from 11-3. There will be professionals on site inspecting the car seats for proper installation as well as car seat integrity. Agent Flaherty will reach out to the Fairhaven School Department to ask if Hastings Middle School parking lot can be used for the event.
- j. Agent Flaherty will be attending the Annual Yankee Public Health Conference next week. This conference brings together health professionals from all of New England as well as New York and New Jersey, offering seminars on health related topics, food service, communicable diseases, and environmental issues.
- k. Chairman Gallagher noted the car seat program is a wonderful service being provided and reviewed that it will hopefully be offered at Hastings Middle School, but approval needs to be granted by the school department. Chairman Gallagher would also like to see this event advertised to the public on the social media accounts, the web page and possibly the schools. Agent Flaherty will also ask Fairhaven TV if they can advertise as well. Chairman Gallagher also asked regarding the rodent complaints and which areas of town are reporting. Agent Flaherty noted they are scattered throughout town. Agent Flaherty will also follow up with the dumpster company to ensure screens are placed over drain holes to prevent rodents from entering.

6. Discuss weekly Board of Health related topics – the website is still being worked on.

7. Discuss Chapter II hearing for 236 Adams St – Agent Flaherty has been in touch with Mr. Medeiros, who has been helping Mr. Clunie. The landscaping has been taken care

of on the property. Agent Flaherty told Mr. Medeiros that the landscaping is great, but the priority is the house. Agent Flaherty will contact the contractor to determine when the work will start to make the house weather-tight. If work does not begin there may need to be a deadline to start the work.

- 8. 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.
- 9. New Fee Schedule for the department** – Agent Flaherty made the updates to the fee schedule as discussed at the last meeting. Agent Flaherty reviewed the proposal includes a sliding fee based on the number of seats in a restaurant; for retail the square footage of the building; and for lodging the number of rooms. Agent Flaherty also included a fee for Body Art. Member Frezza asked if the Body Art includes tattoo as well as piercings. Agent Flaherty affirmed it includes both. A notice will need to be posted in the Fairhaven Neighborhood News for two consecutive editions regarding the proposed fee schedule changes. Then, the next step is to have a public hearing regarding the fee schedule. **Motion:** Member Frezza made a motion to accept the proposed fee schedule and move to public hearing. Chairman Gallagher seconded. The vote is unanimous and motion accepted.
- 10. Public Comment** – No public comment at this time. Chairman Gallagher reviewed that there will be a joint meeting on September 18, 2023 with the Select Board to meet in Executive Session regarding 6 Evergreen St and a public meeting to appoint a new member for the Board of Health vacancy.
- 11. Invoices, Correspondence and other business**
 - a. Invoices reviewed and approved.
- 12. Next Meeting Date** – September 27, 2023 at 5:00pm.
- 13. Future Agenda Items**
- 14. Adjourn – Motion:** Member Frezza made a motion to adjourn. Chairman Gallagher seconded. The vote is unanimous and motion accepted.