



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

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

September 27, 2023

PRESENT: Justine Frezza, Brian Meneses, David Flaherty

ABSENT: Kevin Gallagher

1. Call to Order

- a. Member Frezza called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Member Frezza welcomed everyone.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome and Media Notification

- a. Member Frezza read the media and recording notifications.

4. Welcome Brian Meneses, newly appointed board member

- a. Member Frezza welcomed Brian Meneses to the Board of Health.

5. Minutes of the Meeting

- a. Member Frezza noted minutes from the September 13, 2023 meeting will be moved until next meeting when Chairman Gallagher is present to vote.

6. Discuss and vote on the organization of Board members

- a. Member Frezza noted this will be extended to the next meeting as well to allow for a vote when Chairman Gallagher is present.

7. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID numbers, according to the Mass Department of Public Health, is currently at 21 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, Westport, and Easton, but not in the rest of 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 have gone down. 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 at Hastings Middle School. There will be professionals on site inspecting the car seats for proper installation as well as car seat integrity.
- j. Agent Flaherty attended the Annual Yankee Public Health Conference. 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. Member Frezza commented that there are free COVID test kits available again at COVID.gov. There is a link on the Board of Health web page. Agent Flaherty is working on trying to get free test kits in the office again for residents. Member Meneses noted that individuals can also obtain free COVID test kits at pharmacies depending on the health insurance. Please check with your pharmacy for more information.

8. Discuss weekly Board of Health related topics

- a. Member Frezza noted the website is still being worked on.
- b. Member Frezza asked the status of the Opioid QR code to post in businesses, which will allow individuals to scan the QR code and be brought to the Fairhaven Community Outreach page.

9. Discuss Chapter II hearing for 236 Adams St – Agent Flaherty reports the contractor has pulled a building permit to start work. The hope is that the building will be weather-tight by the winter.

10. Discuss new Fee Schedule for the department – Member Frezza reviewed the proposed fee schedule changes. Agent Flaherty notes the public announcement will be in the Fairhaven Neighborhood News the weeks of 09/28/2023 and 10/07/2023. The next step once this is fulfilled is to have a public meeting to vote on the proposed fee schedule.

11. Public Comment – No public comment at this time.

12. Invoices, Correspondence and other business

- a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

13. Next Meeting Date – October 11, 2023 at 5:00pm.

14. Future Agenda Items

15. Adjourn – Motion: Member Frezza made a motion to adjourn. Member Meneses seconded. The vote is unanimous and motion accepted.