



Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

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

October 11, 2023

PRESENT: Kevin Gallagher, Justine Frezza, Brian Meneses, 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 September 13, 2023. Chairman Gallagher seconded and motion accepted. The motion passed (2-0-1). Member Meneses abstained from vote.
- b. **Motion:** Member Frezza made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting September 27, 2023. Member Meneses seconded and motion accepted. The motion passed (2-0-1). Chairman Gallagher abstained from vote.

- 5. Discuss and vote on the organization of Board members** – Chairman Gallagher explained this has been brought to the agenda since previous Vice Chair Hacking resigned and now Member Brian Meneses has joined. Chairman Gallagher noted that he will not be seeking re-election once his term is fulfilled. Member Frezza and Member Meneses are in agreement that Chairman Gallagher should remain Chairman until the end of his term. Therefore, the vacancy is just to fill the Vice Chair position based on seniority and experience. This has traditionally been the process and is also fair, allowing everyone a chance to move to the vacant position. Chairman Gallagher nominates Member Frezza to Vice Chair of the Board of Health. Member Meneses seconded the nomination. The vote is unanimous.

6. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID positivity rate is at 14.79% down from 20%. The Board of Health just received free test kits. There are a total of 1,800 delivered. The test kits are available at Town Hall and the Council on Aging.
- 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. One Perc test was witnessed and no Title 5 were witnessed.
- e. There are multiple Chapter II housing issues followed up on.
- f. Arbovirus update – No humans have tested positive for EEE, but 4 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 continue. 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. The COVID vaccine is not yet available for home-bound residents.
- i. Car seat inspection program originally scheduled for October 7th had to be postponed due to inclement weather. Please watch the Town Website and Facebook for the reschedule date.
- j. Hazardous material collection date is October 28, 2023 from 8am-12pm at the BPW. Please see the Board of Health or the BPW webpage for a list of acceptable items.

7. Update on Unsheltered Migrant Visitors in Fairhaven - Agent Flaherty commented that about a week and half ago the town was notified by the state that we would be receiving unsheltered and/or migrant families at the Seaport Inn. This is through the state's program for sheltering families. Originally there were 15 rooms allotted and then two days later they increased to 20 rooms. The families were to arrive Friday evening or Saturday morning. Agent Flaherty noted how amazing to have the town and town administration come together to coordinate and collect donation of supplies and food for the families. The Fairhaven Fire Dept. collected all of the supplies and then brought the supplies to the Seaport Inn. Only one unsheltered family arrived, who are already citizens. Since they are already a part of this program, it is the understanding of the town that they are already vaccinated and vetted through the school system. We are unsure of when the rest of the families are going to arrive. The National Guard will also be present at the Seaport Inn. Agent Flaherty summarized that his role as the Health Agent, is to communicate with the Public Health Nurse to perform a quick survey if any of these families seem unwell or need urgent medical care. Agent Flaherty has also reached out to the Bristol County Emergency Management partners for assistance if needed. Chairman Gallagher reviewed that the state notified the town that there could be up to 20 unsheltered families arriving in Fairhaven. Agent Flaherty affirmed. Chairman Gallagher comment there was some adverse reaction to the unsheltered families coming on Saturday morning and only one family arrived, whom are already citizens, just unsheltered. Agent Flaherty affirmed. Chairman Gallagher also reviewed the primary responsibility of Agent Flaherty is to enforce existing codes and standards. Agent Flaherty affirmed and noted such things as ensuring there is no use of hot plates in the rooms. Chairman Gallagher noted if this is a code that would be enforced for any person staying at the hotel, to which, Agent Flaherty affirmed. Chairman Gallagher noted that as a Board the expectation is that Agent Flaherty enforces the health codes as he would for any situation. There should be no more and no less enforcement of these standards than what is done for any other family in town today. Agent Flaherty affirmed. Agent Flaherty noted that he will also be following up with the state to ensure they are following through on the medical screening for the families that do come. Chairman Gallagher requested what this screening includes. Agent Flaherty noted it is for communicable diseases, which will include TB testing and lead testing for the children.

8. Discuss weekly Board of Health related topics – Vice Chair Frezza asked if the QR code for the Fairhaven Community Outreach has been updated on the website. Agent Flaherty affirmed it is updated now. There are also fliers and magnets with this QR code that will be distributed to businesses in town to post. Agent Flaherty also noted the website is still being worked on. The IT department is going to be working on the entire website for the town. This may take some time for the IT department to update.

9. **Discuss Chapter II hearing 236 Adams** – Agent Flaherty noted that the contractor has pulled a building permit. The work should be starting in the next few weeks. The yard has been cleaned by a landscaper as well.

10. **Discuss and Vote on New Fee Schedule** – Agent Flaherty noted this item will need to be moved to a future date. The public advertisement in the Fairhaven Neighborhood News only ran one week, so it will need to be run on October 12th and 19th to fulfill the public notice. Chairman Gallagher agreed this needs to wait until or responsibility to public notice is fulfilled.

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 25, 2023 at 5pm.

14. **Future Agenda Items**

15. **Adjourn and Executive Session** – Chairman Gallagher stated to enter into executive session to discuss pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) (potential litigation) and (7) “[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements”: Public Records Law, G.L. c. 4, s. 7(26) (discuss privileged legal opinion and potential litigation concerning 6 Evergreen Street) and not to reconvene in open session. **Motion:** Vice Chair Frezza made motion to move to executive session at 5:23pm and not to reconvene in open session. Member Meneses seconded. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).