



## Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

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

November 8, 2023

PRESENT: Kevin Gallagher, Justine Frezza, David Flaherty

ABSENT: Brian Meneses

### 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 October 25, 2023. Chairman Gallagher in agreement and motion accepted. The vote is unanimous.

### 5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID numbers continue to go down, now at 12.35% down from 13.91% based on testing from clinical settings. COVID Test Kits are available at the Town Hall.
- 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 were witnessed.
- e. There are multiple Chapter II housing issues followed up on.

- f. Arbovirus Update – No humans have tested positive for EEE, but 5 humans have tested positive for WNV, none in Bristol County. The Arbovirus surveillance season is over so this will be the last report until next year.
  - g. Rodent complaints 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. The COVID vaccine is not yet available for home-bound residents. The Health Department is preparing to have a flu vaccine clinic hopefully in the next couple of weeks.
  - i. Hazardous material collection date was October 28, 2023 from 8am-12pm at the BPW. There was a good turnout of 148 vehicles.
  - j. There is now a Hoarding Remediation bulletin on the Health Department website. It provides links to hoarding remediation resources regarding getting help and clean up services.
  - k. Chairman Gallagher thanked the staff from the BPW that worked the Hazardous Waste Day. Given that 148 vehicles participated, that is a substantial amount of hazardous waste to collect. Chairman Gallagher also requested that the hoarding information be relayed to the Council on Aging.
- 6. Update on Unsheltered Migrant visitors in Fairhaven** - Agent Flaherty reviewed that there are families present and everything is going smoothly. There is National Guard present to help with logistics. The Health Department donated hand sanitizer and an electronic translator. Seasonal clothing is still being accepted at the Seaport Inn or the Fire Department. The school department is working on getting all students enrolled and ensuring vaccination status. Vice Chair Frezza asked that the required school vaccinations is what is being verified. Agent Flaherty affirmed this is the case.
- 7. Discuss weekly Board of Health related topics** – Vice Chair Frezza requested that there be some information regarding shelters now that the colder weather is here on the website.
- 8. Discuss Chapter II hearing 236 Adams** – Agent Flaherty spoke with the Building Commissioner today and there is a meeting with the contractor in the next week. Agent Flaherty would like to see this be made weather tight before the winter. The work should begin within the next couple of weeks.
- 9. Public Comment** – No public comment at this time.

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

- a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

**11. Next Meeting Date – December 6, 2023 at 5:00pm.**

**12. Future Agenda Items**