



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

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December 20, 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:** Vice Chair Frezza made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting November 8, 2023. Chairman Gallagher seconded and motion passed (2-0-1). Member Meneses abstained from vote.
- b. **Motion:** Vice Chair Frezza made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting December 6, 2023. Member Meneses seconded and motion passed (2-0-1). Chairman Gallagher abstained from vote.

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID numbers continue to go down, now at 15.33% up from 13.38% based on testing from clinical settings. COVID Test Kits are available at the Town Hall, as well as the COA.
- 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 one Title 5 was witnessed.
- e. There were multiple Chapter II housing issues followed up on.

- f. 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.
- g. Fairhaven home-bound 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.
- h. 2024 Permit season is underway, currently about 80% have already permitted.

6. Title 5 Design Review of 1 Crow Island – Agent Flaherty reviewed this started back in May with a Title 5 inspection, which proved to be in failure. Originally, they considered tying into sewer, but that would be challenging because a sewer pipe would have to be laid under the harbor. This Title 5 system being proposed is pretty much in the same location as the current one. The proposal is using all plastic components. There will be a 5 foot separation from ground water. The only upgrade approval they are requesting is for a reduction in the set back from the coastal bank. The current system is in the coastal bank and the proposed one would be outside of the coastal bank. This would be an improvement. There is also a proposal to use an impervious barrier to make sure that all the affluent will go down instead of out, which is more localized and contained. Nothing out of the ordinary is being requested and this would be an improvement. Agent Flaherty recommends approval of this proposed system. Chairman Gallagher summarized that this would be to accept the Health Agents recommendation and that this proposal is code compliant. Agent Flaherty affirmed. Vice Chair Frezza asked what happens to the old system since they want to put the new one in almost the same location. Agent Flaherty explained that the old system, along with any contaminated soil, will be removed. There will be new medium sand placed and the new system constructed. Chairman Gallagher asked if it will be for the same purpose as previously used. Agent Flaherty noted that the system still shows use for a 3 bedroom dwelling. If any outside events being held there, then a porta-potty should be used. **Motion:** Vice Chair Frezza made a motion to accept the recommendation of Agent Flaherty for the proposed Title 5 of 1 Crow Island. Member Meneses seconded. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

7. Discuss Chapter II hearing 236 Adams – Agent Flaherty reports that last week the contractor replaced the rotting roof, and window with boards and tarps. The property is now water-tight. Agent Flaherty will continue to ensure that work is progressing. The Board is pleased there is progress being made.

- 8. Discuss Board of Health Related Topics** – Chairman Gallagher asked how the website is progressing. Agent Flaherty noted it is still a work in progress. There are also Fairhaven Community Outreach placards that are being made and will be distributed once received. Vice Chair Frezza asked if there is anything about shelters on the website. Agent Flaherty will make sure it is easily accessible on the website.
- 9. Public Comment** – No public comment at this time. Chairman Gallagher wished everyone a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.
- 10. Invoices, Correspondence and other business**
 - a. Invoices reviewed and approved.
- 11. Next Meeting Date** – January 3, 2024 at 5:00pm.
- 12. Meeting Adjourned – Motion:** Vice Chair Frezza motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Meneses seconded. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).