



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

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

January 31, 2024

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 the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting January 17, 2024. Member Meneses seconded and motion passed. The vote is unanimous (3-0-0).

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID numbers are at 14.38%, which is slightly down from 14.41%. This is from positive tests in a clinical setting only. COVID Test Kits are now available at the Health Department and the COA. Vice Chair Frezza asked regarding the expiration date of the kits. Agent Flaherty noted the ones in the Health Department and COA are extended until March 25, 2024.
- 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 were multiple Chapter II housing issues followed up on.

- f. Rodent complaints have gone down for the third consecutive month. 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.
 - h. Health Department website now has information for sheltering assistance, food pantries, and hoarding remediation.
 - i. Agent Flaherty met with Eleanor Chew, the Chair of the Commission on Disability. The Commission on Disability would like to offer any help or ways that we can work together. Agent Flaherty asked the Board for any ideas to please let him know.
- 6. Discuss weekly Board of Health related topics** – Chairman Gallagher asked if the website is still on the list to be worked on. Agent Flaherty affirmed, but noted there is some delay due to staffing changes.
- 7. Discuss and Vote on MOU between Board of Health and Select Board on Supervision of Health Agent** - Chairman Gallagher would like to table this discussion until April 10th. This is due to the election of a new Board of Health member. Chairman Gallagher feels this should be decided on once the new member has been voted in. **Motion:** Vice Chair Frezza made a motion to continue this topic until the April 10th meeting. Member Meneses seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Justine Frezza in favor, Brian Meneses in favor, Kevin Gallagher in favor. The vote is unanimous (3-0-0).
- 8. Septic System Design Plan Review of 831 Sconticut Neck Road** – Agent Flaherty requested a continuance of this item. There are still some outstanding questions for the engineer regarding the design plan. **Motion:** Vice Chair Frezza made a motion to accept the Health Agents recommendation to postpone item 8 & 9 on the Agenda. Member Meneses seconded. The vote is unanimous (3-0-0).
- 9. Septic System Design Plan Review of 833 Sconticut Neck Road** – Agent Flaherty requested a continuance of this item. There are still some outstanding questions for the engineer regarding the design plan. **Motion:** Vice Chair Frezza made a motion to accept the Health Agents recommendation to postpone item 8 & 9 on the Agenda. Member Meneses seconded. The vote is unanimous (3-0-0).
- 10. Public Comment** – No public comment at this time.

11. Invoices, Correspondence and other business

- a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

12. Next Meeting Date – February 14, 2024.

13. Meeting Adjourned – Motion: Vice Chair Frezza motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Meneses seconded. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).