



Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

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

February 12, 2025

PRESENT: Justine Frezza, Brian Meneses, David Flaherty

ABSENT: Barbara Acksen

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome and Media Notification

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

4. Minutes of the Meeting

- a. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting January 29, 2025. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID positivity rate is 6.41% down from 8.86%. This is from positive tests in a clinical setting only.
- b. Blood pressure and wellness clinics offered every Wednesday at the COA from 1-3 pm.
- c. Gastrointestinal illness cases, such as the norovirus, have risen in Fairhaven and the Southcoast. Influenza is also on the rise. Be sure to wash hands often, after the restroom, before preparing, serving, and eating meals. Sanitize surfaces frequently. Pertussis (whooping cough) and other respiratory illnesses are on the rise. Please consult your physician regarding vaccinations.
- d. No Perc tests were witnessed and no Title 5 inspections were witnessed.
- e. Rodent complaints are still coming in. 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.

- f. Avian bird flu has been reported in Southeastern Massachusetts. There have been positive cases in Westport, Wareham and Plymouth. If any dead birds are found please see the Fairhaven Health Department's website for information and contact the Animal Control Officer. Agent Flaherty notes that possible depopulation has been discussed at the State level. Hopefully it will not come to this, but may need to be reviewed in the future. Chair Frezza would like to remind everyone not to touch the birds, but to call the Animal Control Officer for removal. Agent Flaherty affirmed and notes there is no treatment or vaccination. There has only been one human death and there were also underlying comorbidity issues. The symptoms would be similar to any flu virus. Currently the CDC is collecting data and observing the avian flu and infection rates.
 - g. The Fairhaven Health Department recently obtained four pallets of medication disposal bags. These have been supplied by the Acushnet Health Department in conjunction with the Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative. Agent Flaherty extends many thanks to Kevin Fournier, the Fairhaven Facility Director, on transporting these pallets to Fairhaven. These will be available at the Health Department, Police Department and the Council on Aging and the Library. Chair Frezza asked if any pharmacies would need any of these disposal bags. Agent Flaherty notes that pharmacies and nursing homes have their own medication disposal services and these are primarily intended for residential use.
 - h. Fairhaven home-bound residents qualify for a free home-bound flu vaccine offered by the Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative to provide an in-home vaccine. Please check the Health Department webpage for more information.
 - i. The Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative has provided medication disposal bags, sharps containers, CPR masks, tick removers, sunblock and pill containers (these are available in English and Spanish). Please visit the Health Department for any of these free items.
- 6. Discuss and Vote on Title 5 Design Review for 30 Winsegansett Avenue - Agent Flaherty reviewed the septic design plan for the Board of Health. Agent Flaherty recommends accepting the Title 5 Design. Motion: Vice Chair Meneses made a motion to accept the recommendation for the Title 5 Design Review for 30 Winsegansett Avenue. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).**
- 7. Public Comment**
- a. 2 Minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues
- 8. Invoices, Correspondence and any other business that may properly come before the Board not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting**
- a. Invoices reviewed and approved.

9. Next Meeting Date – February 26, 2025 at 5:00pm

10. Meeting Adjourned – Motion: Vice Chair Meneses motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).