



Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

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

March 26, 2025

PRESENT: Justine Frezza, Brian Meneses, Barbara Acksen (via zoom), David Flaherty

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 March 12, 2025. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID positivity rate is 0.82% down from 9.02%. 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 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 childhood illnesses, such as measles, 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. If any dead birds are found please see the Fairhaven Health Department's website for information and contact the Animal Control Officer. Agent Flaherty also asked that residents call the non-emergency Police Department number at 508-997-7421.
 - g. There will be a Blood Drive offered by the American Red Cross and the Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative coming in the next few months.
 - h. A Rabies Clinic will be offered locally and more information to follow in the next few months.
 - i. 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.
 - j. 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. **Discussion Regarding Wind Turbines**— Chair Frezza opened by asking Member Acksen to give an introduction to the Wind Turbine Impact discussion. Member Acksen summarized that a group of affected neighbors requested to speak to the Board of Health to discuss the personal impacts of the wind turbines and propose some possible mitigations. Member Acksen introduced John Methia to come up and introduce the members of the group at the meeting.
- John Methia of 3 Shawmut Street** opened by thanking the Board for having them at the meeting. John Methia notes that the purpose is to bring the current Board of Health up to date on the impacts to the neighborhood of the wind turbines since they went up about 12 years ago. John Methia reviewed that Kingston, Plymouth and Hull decommissioned or replaced with solar the turbines due to health risks by their Boards of Health. Vice Chair Meneses asked what the particular terms were they taken down? John Methia notes in Falmouth there were lawsuits and health complaints. John Methia reviewed that 12 years later they are still here because the impact of the wind turbines are still happening. They would like to look for a solution. John Methia reviewed the Select Board is dealing with the developer on the wind turbines. John Methia commented that the developer wants to repower the turbines with larger turbines and according to the Town By-laws that were enacted after the turbines went in to not allow for any more turbines of this size to go anywhere else in town. The Board of Health at the time had the turbines shut down from 7pm to 7am as relief as a result of testing done by the DEP. John Methia notes as these turbines have aged that further breakdown has occurred and as a result the impact has increased.

Grant Menard of 45 Weeden Road opened by reviewing the proximity of his residence to the turbines. Grant Menard notes this has been ongoing and not something one can get used to. Grant Menard summarized the effects of the turbines and the personal impact it has had on him and his family's health. Grant Menard thanked the Board that the Impact Form is available, but in the 12 years not a single person has responded. Grant Menard would like to know where the information is going and who would be the person to respond. Grant Menard provided the Board with the newspaper articles from the other Towns that have had similar issues with wind turbines. Grant Menard invites anyone from the Select Board or Board of Health to come to his home to experience the effects or review videos. Grant Menard asked for there to be some down time for the turbines to be off during the night.

Curt Devlin 24 Elmview Avenue Dartmouth opened by noting that while not a current resident of Fairhaven, lived in Fairhaven for 50 years near the wind turbines prior to moving. Kurt Delvin also notes that part of the decision to move was due to the wind turbine impact. Curt Devlin notes that the benefits for Fairhaven from the wind turbines is revenue for leasing the land and also net metering credits from the energy produced by the wind turbines. Discussion ensued with the Board regarding the benefits of the lease agreement. Curt Devlin provided background on his employment, patents, and education. Curt Devlin presented slides with information regarding the wind turbines, the impact study performed by the DEP and mitigation plan. Further discussion ensued regarding the slides and studies performed.

Chair Frezza asked if there is any documentation from doctors that there is a connection between effects of residents and the wind turbines. John Methia notes that there is not specific documentation from a doctor, but proposed that the Board come to the properties and observe the impact. John Methia notes that wind turbines are large machines operating at all hours and that it would be terrible for the Select Board to approve larger wind turbines and extend the contract.

Carolyn Young 4 Eddy Street who previously resided 1,000 ft from the wind turbines and moved to the current address about 8 years ago. Carolyn Young notes that even residing on the other side of Route 6 now the ambient noise from the wind turbines is still an issue. Carolyn Young has videos of the flicker effect and the noise. Carolyn Young summarized that her family is still dealing with the impact every day.

Agent Flaherty asked if this presentation has been brought to the current Select Board. Grant Menard notes that this was brought to the Select Board. Grant Menard commented that the Select Board has wanted to discuss the contract of the Wind Turbines and not the health impact. Grant Menard notes he sent a video of the turbines from his home to a Select Board member. Chair Frezza asked if it is possible to obtain videos from residents to attach to the Impact Form. Agent Flaherty to follow up with the Media Director. Grant Menard and John Methia provided additional comments on the wind turbines and the impacts in the surrounding area.

Chair Frezza requested the Board of Health draft a letter to the Select Board to make recommendations regarding the wind turbines. Member Acksen also discussed improving on the Impact Form for resident's to submit. Further discussion ensued

regarding the Board of Health follow up with the Select Board and more information to follow at the next meeting.

- 7. Health Agent's Annual Evaluation** – Chair Frezza notes that the Board of Health will need to perform the Health Agent's Annual Evaluation. The Board will complete the evaluation after the Public Meeting is adjourned.
- 8. Public Comment**
 - a. 2 Minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues.
- 9. 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.
- 10. Next Meeting Date** – April 9, 2025 at 5:00pm
- 11. Meeting Adjourned – Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).