



## Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719  
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May 7, 2025

PRESENT: Justine Frezza, Brian Meneses, Barbara Acksen, 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 April 23, 2025. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).

### 5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID positivity rate is 2.27% down from 3.5%. 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. Be sure to wash hands often, after the restroom, before preparing, serving, and eating meals. Sanitize surfaces frequently. 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. Agent Flaherty had a zoom meeting today to begin the process of creating programs within the Town to utilize opioid settlement funds. Agent Flaherty will also be attending a daylong seminar on May 27<sup>th</sup> to further address how to utilize the funds.
  - g. 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.
  - h. The Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative has provided medication disposal bags, sharps containers, CPR masks, tick removers, 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 Sconticut Neck Road Map 42 Lot 6 –** Agent Flaherty reviewed the septic plan and the original septic system for the property. Discussion ensued regarding the septic plan. Agent Flaherty recommends accepting the plan. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to accept Mr. Flaherty's recommendation to accept the Title 5 Design for Sconticut Neck Map 42 Lot 6. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).
- 7. Wind Turbine Update –** Chair Frezza reviewed the joint meeting with the Select Board from April 28th. Agent Flaherty notes that the next step is to have a Public Health Hearing regarding the Wind Turbines. Discussion ensued regarding the topic of the Public Health Hearing to be scheduled. Agent Flaherty has reached out to DEP to do more studies on the Wind Turbines impact. DEP responded that they are discussing this internally at this time. The Wind Turbine Impact Form is on the website for feedback. Agent Flaherty expressed thanks to the IT department for making the form possible. Member Acksen suggested doing a PSA to collect data. Chair Frezza encouraged everyone to please provide information through the Wind Turbine Impact Form and the current Board is trying to help find a resolution that will work for all parties involved. Agent Flaherty discussed how data is needed to help make decisions regarding the Wind Turbines and the impact to residents. This is where DEP needs to help provide the data since they have the equipment to assess this. Chair Frezza notes that the Board of Health may attend the Select Board meeting on Monday. Agent Flaherty notes an Agenda will be posted in case a quorum attends the Select Board meeting. Agent Flaherty notes advertisement of the Public Hearing will need to take place and if the Board would motion for a Public Hearing. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to post a Public Hearing on June 4<sup>th</sup> for wind turbine remediation. Member Acksen seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Justine Frezza in favor, Brian Meneses in favor, Barbara Acksen in favor. The vote is unanimous (3-0-0).

**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 – May 21, 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).