



Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

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

May 21, 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 May 7, 2025. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID positivity rate is 1.2% down from 2.27%. 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. Measles are also 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. The American Red Cross is having a Blood Drive at Fort Taber on June 26th from 12-4, Acushnet COA on July 29th from 12:30-4:30, and the Fairhaven Rec Center September 28th from 9:30-1:30.
 - g. There will be a Rabies Clinic being offered sometime in the next month.
 - h. Agent Flaherty will be attending another online meeting with the State to discuss the utilization of the Opioid Settlement funds.
 - 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, sunscreen, 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 7 Silver Shell Beach Drive** – Agent Flaherty reviewed the septic plan. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to accept Mr. Flaherty's recommendation to accept the Title 5 Design for 7 Silver Shell Beach Drive. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).
- 7. **Wind Turbine Update** – Agent Flaherty notes the Public Hearing is on June 4th at 5:00 pm at Town Hall. If anyone has a presentation for the Public Hearing, it should be new material and brought to the Health Department ahead of the meeting so the Media Department can have it prepared. Discussion ensued regarding the Wind Turbine Public Hearing, times the turbines should be shut down, and any information the Mass DEP can provide. Chair Frezza encouraged feedback on the Turbines whether it is negative or positive. Further discussion ensued regarding the wind turbines.
- 8. **Meeting Schedule for Summer** – Agent Flaherty wanted to ask the Board if any meetings during the summer should be cancelled. Typically, the Board of Health meets every other week. The Board discussed the tentative schedule for the Board of Health meetings and would like to take it meeting by meeting whether to cancel any for the summer. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to cancel the Board of Health meeting for July 2nd. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).
- 9. **Public Comment**
 - a. 2 Minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues.

- 10. 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.

11. Next Meeting Date – June 4, 2025 at 5:00pm

12. Meeting Adjourned – Motion: Vice Chair Meneses motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting. Member Acksan seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).