



Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

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

July 16, 2025

PRESENT: Justine Frezza, Barbara Acksen, David Flaherty

ABSENT: Brian Meneses

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:** Member Acksen made the motion to accept the minutes of the Public Meeting May 21, 2025. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).
- b. **Motion:** Member Acksen made the motion to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing June 4, 2025. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID positivity rate is 1.72% up from 1.2%. 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. Measles, pertussis and other childhood diseases are on the rise. Please consult your physician regarding vaccinations.
- d. Arbovirus update: Fairhaven is considered low risk for WNV and EEE. WNV has been detected in mosquito pools in Barnstable County and in an animal in Worcester County, but no human cases in the state. Ticks are of importance due to their high population this year. Please limit outdoor activities from dusk to dawn and use appropriate repellent. The Bristol County Mosquito Control is treating Fairhaven on Wednesdays and Fridays.

- e. One Perc test was witnessed and four Title 5 inspections were witnessed.
 - f. Beachwater testing has been going well. There have been no exceedances to date. Results are posted on Facebook and the Health Department website.
 - g. Sunscreen dispensers have been installed at parks and the bike path.
 - h. The Health Department staff took a ServSafe Certification Training and all passed.
 - i. 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.
 - j. The American Red Cross is having a Blood Drive at Acushnet COA on July 29th from 12:30-4:30, and the Fairhaven Rec Center on September 28th from 9:30-1:30.
 - k. 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.
 - l. 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.
 - m. Agent Flaherty has attended meetings for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Bristol County. This provides resources for hospitals, nursing homes and towns.
6. **Community Nurse Home Care Contract** – Agent Flaherty reviewed the contract and notes it is level funded from the previous years. **Motion:** Member Acksen motioned to allow Mr. Flaherty to sign the Community Nurse Home Care Contract. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).
7. **Opioid Settlement Fund Update** – Agent Flaherty reviewed the settlement funds and how they can be used. Agent Flaherty has a meeting with other Town Departments to decide how to best use the funds. Further discussion ensued regarding the funds and ideas to use the funds. Chair Frezza and Member Acksen requested to be invited to the meetings and will attend if available.

8. **Wind Turbine Update** – Chair Frezza notes that the Board members submitted questions to Agent Flaherty for Town Counsel. Agent Flaherty reviewed that the questions have been submitted and awaiting a response from Town Counsel.
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** – July 30, 2025 at 5:00pm
12. **Meeting Adjourned – Motion:** Member Acksen motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-0).