



Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

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September 24, 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 Public Meeting September 10, 2025. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).

5. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID positivity rate is 14.29% for the past two weeks, up from 1.75%. 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, mumps and other childhood diseases are on the rise. Please consult your physician regarding vaccinations.
- d. Arbovirus update: Fairhaven is considered low risk for EEE and moderate risk for WNV. WNV has been detected in mosquito pools in Barnstable, Marion, and New Bedford and in an animal in Worcester County. EEE has been detected in mosquito pools in Plymouth and Hampshire County. 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 has finished treating for the season.
- e. One Perc test was witnessed and one Title 5 inspection was witnessed.

- f. 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.
 - g. The American Red Cross is having a Blood Drive at the Fairhaven Rec Center on September 28th from 9:30-1:30.
 - 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. There are more vaccine clinics being offered, please check the Health Department webpage for more information.
 - i. A Veteran Outreach and Wellness Fair will be held November 13th from 10-2 at the Rec Center. The Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative will be attending.
 - 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). There are no longer any COVID test kits. Please visit the Health Department for any of these free items.
6. **Wind Turbine Update** – Agent Flaherty reviewed that, after speaking with Town Counsel and other Health Agents, it will be difficult to shut down the turbines without technical data. New testing needs to be done and discussion ensued regarding who would pay for the testing and the cost. Member Acksen asked if there are any available grants to help pay for the testing. Fairhaven Wind was at the last Select Board meeting and there may be limitations on the upgrade to the turbines. Agent Flaherty noted the Public Hearing could be continued to discuss the status with the abutters. The Board discussed whether to have the Public Hearing at the next meeting or at a later date. **Motion:** Member Acksen made a motion to continue the Public Hearing at the next Board of Health meeting. Vice Chair Meneses seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Brian Meneses in favor, Justine Frezza not in favor, Barbara Acksen in favor. The vote passed (2-1-0).
7. **Public Comment** – 2 minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues
- a. John Methia of Shawmut Street – opened by thanking the Board for listening. John Methia spoke of the concern abutters have regarding going public with the impact of the turbines. Discussion ensued how to make the form more anonymous. John Methia reviewed what was discussed at the Select Board meeting by Fairhaven Wind. There was a document submitted by Fairhaven Wind to the Board of Health that was mentioned at the Public Hearing on June 4, 2025 and there is a formal request for that document to be provided. Agent Flaherty noted he will work with the Clerk's office on providing that document.

John Methia asked when the Executive Session minutes will be released. Chair Frezza noted that this will be reviewed to determine when the minutes can be released. John Methia asked if the Board of Health would be willing to send a letter to the Select Board to review the health concerns from the turbines. John Methia noted that Fairhaven Wind may be able to circumvent the by-law restrictions. John Methia mentioned there is a documentary being developed regarding the impact of the wind turbines. Member Acksen asked if John Methia has any contacts involved with the Falmouth turbines that could speak to Agent Flaherty. John Methia asked the Board of Health to consider the Nuisance Act. Further discussion ensued regarding the Nuisance Act and having the Board of Health do a site visit.

- b. Bruce Webb the Land Use and Planning Director - noted that an energy manager has been obtained through a grant. The company retained to help assess wind projects is Weston and Sampson. Discussion ensued regarding how the grant is set up for the Town and whether Weston and Sampson can review the Fairhaven Wind turbine contract and collect data on the current turbines. Bruce Webb to review the parameters of the grant and keep the Board of Health apprised to the findings.

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 – Continued Public Hearing - October 8, 2025 at 5:00pm

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