



Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

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April 23, 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. Discuss and Vote on Organization of Board Members – Chair Frezza reviewed that a vote for the organization of the Board Members needs to take place since there was just an election of a Board of Health member. Chair Frezza reviewed the historical way in which the Board Members have held the position of Chair, Vice Chair and Member. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to have Justine Frezza as Chair. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed (2-0-1) with Justine Frezza abstaining. **Motion:** Member Acksen motioned to have Brian Meneses as Vice Chair. Chair Frezza seconded. The vote passed (2-0-1) with Brian Meneses abstaining. **Motion:** Chair Frezza motioned to have Barbara Acksen as Clerk. Vice Chair Meneses seconded. The vote passed (2-0-1) with Barbara Acksen abstaining.

5. Minutes of the Meeting

- a. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses made the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting April 9, 2025. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).

6. Health Agent Report

- a. Health Agent Flaherty reports COVID positivity rate is 3.5% up from 1.32%. 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. Influenza is on the decline. Measles and other childhood illnesses are on the rise. Please consult your physician regarding vaccinations. Agent Flaherty will be attending a zoom meeting in two weeks with the Mass DPH to discuss measles.
- d. No Perc tests were witnessed and one Title 5 inspection was 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. Agent Flaherty has begun the process of creating programs within the Town to utilize opioid settlement funds. Agent Flaherty will be on a zoom meeting with Care Massachusetts. Care provides guidance on how to best utilize funds.
- j. 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.
- k. 7-Eleven served their one-day suspension for the tobacco violation in coordination with the New Bedford Tobacco Compliance Officer.
- l. 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.

- 7. Greater New Bedford Public Health Coalition & SEMA Public Health Nurse Updates –**
Agent Flaherty reviewed that he has been attending bi-weekly meetings and wanted to give a more in-depth overview of what is coming. Agent Flaherty presented some upcoming training events: CPR & AED Training, Vaccine Clinics, Health Education, Car Seat Safety, and Tobacco Retailer Compliance Training. To register or for more information call the New Bedford Health Department at 508-991-6199. The GNBPHC also will have a table at the North Fairhaven Open Air Market at Livesey Park monthly. Member Acksen asked how the GNBPHC makes decisions on what is being offered. Agent Flaherty notes that all members of the GNBPHC have input and votes on what events to offer. Please contact the Health Department for more information on the upcoming training events.
- 8. Discuss and Vote on Title 5 Design Review for 3 Saltmarsh Road –** Agent Flaherty read a letter from the engineer regarding the proposed plan. Agent Flaherty reviewed the plan for the Board. Discussion ensued regarding the septic design and the old septic system. Agent Flaherty recommends accepting the septic plan. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to accept Mr. Flaherty's recommendation to accept the Title 5 Design for 3 Saltmarsh Road. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).
- 9. Wind Turbine Update -** Agent Flaherty notes there is a Board of Health Public Meeting Joint with the Select Board on April 28th at 6:30pm. Agent Flaherty notes that the representative from Fairhaven Wind is also on the Select Board Agenda. Discussion ensued regarding the meeting on April 28th and the information to present.
- 10. Public Comment**
 - a. 2 Minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues.
- 11. 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.
- 12. Next Meeting Date –** May 7, 2025 at 5:00pm
- 13. Meeting Adjourned – Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).