

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of Meeting
May 28, 2020

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Fairhaven Town Hall Banquet Room and via Zoom on Thursday, May 28, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was duly posted. Board members present: Chairwoman Jeannine Lopes, Michael Silvia via Zoom and Peter DeTerra. Also present: via zoom Mary Freire-Kellogg Health Agent and via Zoom Amanda Blais, Administrative Assistant.

Before the Board:

Chairwoman Lopes asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of April 23, 2020. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Lopes asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the emergency meeting of May 6, 2020. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

Before the Board was approval for a new septic system for 24 Causeway Road. The Board did not review the plans prior to the meeting. The Health Agent is to scan the plans to the Board. Chairwoman Lopes asked the Health Agent if there were any issues with the plans and the Health Agent responded that there was nothing unusual with the septic plans. Motion to approve plans for a new septic system at 24 Causeway Road subject to individual Board member review was made by Ms. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed a new animal permit application for 36 Causeway Road. The Health Agent noted the permit was for a chicken request. Mr. DeTerra stated to include "no rooster" on the issued permit. Mr. Silvia stated the permit should read up to twelve chickens and asked if any Board member had any issues with the drawing provided. Chairwoman Lopes mentioned the drawing states the coop would be five feet away from the property line. Motion to approve the new chicken permit for 36 Causeway Road was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed a swimming pool variance for 34 Davis Street. The Health Agent stated Board of Health regulations require a 10ft. setback and the applicant only has 8ft. Chairwoman Lopes asked if there were any issues with the variance concerning the neighbors and the applicant, Kevin Viveiros, stated the neighbors received notification and did not have any issues. Mr. DeTerra mentioned the applicant is going before Zoning Board of Appeals and Mr. Viveiros confirmed his appointment for the following week. Mr. Silvia asked if the Board has the power to grant the variance and Chairwoman Lopes confirmed. Motion to approve the 8ft setback was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Chairwoman Lopes; abstained by Mr. DeTerra, as he sits on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion passed.

The Board reviewed a new food permit application for Bridge Street Mobil located on 277 Bridge Street. The Health Agent stated the food for this establishment is from the deli and is prepackaged and a donut shop is to come. Chairwoman Lopes asked when the establishment is expected to open and the Health Agent stated the establishment is waiting for Board of Health approval. Motion to approve the new food permit for Bridge Street Mobil was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

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Public Hearing:

None.

Health Agent's Report:

Ms. Freire-Kellogg discussed updates regarding COVID-19. Currently, there are 256 cases and the public health nurse continues to follow cases. PSA's, signage and thermometers have been provided to the Housing Authority and the Health Agent has been working closely with Krisanne Sheedy. The Police Department has been issuing masks and masks are available. The Health Department continues to receive complaints regarding people not wearing masks but regulations are loosely written and change minute by minute. Governor Baker hasn't removed the 14-day quarantine for out-of-state travel. The Health Agent continues to work with BPW, COA and Recreation Center. A BBQ and Outdoor Safety flyer has been created for publishing.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg briefly mentioned the Atlas One Program. The Health Agent stated the Deputy Fire Chief, Social Media/Communications and Town Administrator have requested further communication regarding the new program for clarification and discussion.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg discussed inspections. Currently, food inspections are not occurring to reduce the risk of COVID-19. Complaints will continue to be investigated. Food establishments are only open for takeout. Other emergency or time sensitive inspections have been performed.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg reminded the Board of retail tobacco. As of June 1st, flavored tobacco will not be allowed for sale. The Tobacco Inspector will inspect establishments to ensure flavored tobacco products have been removed.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board she has received complaints regarding Tanner Lane and Costa Drive with concerns of black water. An engineering study was conducted and a backflush will hopefully provide a solution.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg discussed BPW re-opening parks and beaches. The Health Agent provided information during the Managers meeting. Town Administrator, Mark Rees stated that BPW has operational control over beaches; police department has policing control and enforces social distancing and masks.

Mr. Rees asked the Health Agent if she has informed the Board of her health situation and Ms. Freire-Kellogg stated she hadn't as of yet. Mr. Rees asked if the Health Agent had intentions to do so and Ms. Freire-Kellogg responded she would, however not over public television. Mr. Silvia asked for clarification regarding what Mr. Rees was asking of the Health Agent and Ms. Freire-Kellogg responded that Mr. Rees asked her to announce she had been tested for COVID-19 and currently does not have the results. Mr. Rees stated the letter submitted by the Health Agent indicated she could not come to work for five days. Mr. Silvia stated this is a personnel issue and asked if the Board should be in executive session to discuss. Chairwoman Lopes confirmed that private medical concerns shouldn't be discussed openly and Mr. DeTerra stated the Health Agent should bring the Board up to speed privately. Chairwoman Lopes advised the Health Agent to discuss via email or telephone. Ms. Freire-Kellogg stated it's fine it can happen to anyone. Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board that her personal days are to expire June 30th. The Health Agent asked the Board if her personal and vacation days could rollover due to COVID-19 circumstances. The Board discussed it. Mr. Rees requested a specific date. Discussion among the board about possibly being taken within 60 or 90 days. Not to leave it open ended. No vote was taken. Mr. Rees requested an email be sent for confirmation.

Discussion about this being Ms. Lopes final meeting and when to have the next meeting after the election. No vote taken.

Invoices/Other Business:

There being no other business before the Board, Mr. Silvia made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.