



Town of Fairhaven
Board of Health

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02749
Telephone: (508) 979-4023 ext. 125 · Fax: (508) 979-4079

JAN 27 9:35
FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

January 27, 2021

PRESENT: Peter Deterra, Geoffrey Haworth, Michael Ristuccia, Sarah Dupont, Thomas Hemmingway
Jocelyn Bowers. Chris & Ali Olson, Christopher Richard, and Stephen Hickox (Via Zoom)

1. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Peter Deterra called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Roll call attendance of the meeting members were taken, Michael Ristuccia and Geoffrey Haworth were all in attendance.

2. Welcome and Media Notification

- a. Mr. Deterra welcomed everyone and read the media and recording notifications and Welcome the public to speak on items.

3. Minutes of the Meetings:

- a. Open Session – January 13, 2021
Mr. Haworth suggested to add to item 7a to state fee schedule prior to this year the fee of \$5 was being charged even though the fee schedule approved in 2016 was listed as \$25.
Mr. Haworth made the motion to approve the minutes upon the modification of item 7a.
Mr. Ristuccia seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous.

4. Health Agent Report of the Covid-19 Update

- a. Ms. Dupont gave the new case count from last week's weekly report as of January 19 we have 334 cases within the last 14 days, 1,453 cases since the start of the pandemic, the percent positivity rate is at 10.36%
- b. As of Monday January 25th the stay at home advisory from the state level has been lifted, as well as the mandatory business closure of 9:30pm. Reminders have been sent out to businesses to remind them that although they are permitted to be open and sell alcohol after 9:30pm they must continue to serve food with alcohol. Once the food service for the night and for individuals ends, folks need to finish their meal and leave the business. The 90 minute time limit is still in place.
- c. Temporary capacity and gathering limits are still in place until February 8th. Reminders were sent out to business and establishments do have their Temporary capacity limit signs.
 - i. Mr. Haworth said soon they will be looking at businesses to make sure that they have their Temporary Capacity signs posted and would appreciate voluntary compliance.
 - ii. Ms. Dupont also mentioned that it was directly emailed to the establishments.
- d. Currently we are still in Phase 1 and Phase 2 will begin Monday February 1st for 75+ eligible. Second group will be 65+ and two or more comorbidities, then k-12 etc, If people have questions where they fall on the list, the list is also on our website as well.

- e. Ms. Dupont said she is understanding that the elderly in town have been having complications with using the online sign up. She has worked with cable access to create videos on how to sign up for two of the interfaces that are up and running to help those with computer and internet. Those who need assistance they can call the Council on Aging to help with the online process as well as transportation within a certain distance to the appointment if needed. The state department is working on a phone line which will be another form of signing up for the vaccine as well. The phone line is not running yet, but as soon as the Board of Health knows we will make sure that we get it out to the public.
- f. When looking at things online about covid please look at what is specific to Massachusetts only. The CDC does have a lot of information but it is not specific to Massachusetts vaccination plan and every state is different.
- g. Walgreens in Fairhaven and Walgreens in Fall River as well as CVS, are taking appointments but they do fill up very quickly and there is not a large amount of vaccine being delivered from the federal government.
- h. There are going to be more sites being added. South Coast Health announced they will be adding 3 sites, the site are to be determined and would like to be up and running by mid-February. Bristol Community College will be running a regional site as well, soon to be up and running, but not accepting appointments at this time. More pharmacy sites like Stop & Shop, Hannaford will be added as well in the future. The state is also looking to add a mass vaccination site to the South East similar to Gillette Stadium and are actively scouting locations. Vaccines are being shipped on a week to week basis and appointments will be added to sites as the vaccine becomes available. Where ever you get your first dose, you must get your second dose. Once you get the vaccine you still need to do your handwashing as well as wearing your mask, social distancing as well as adhering to the travel order.

Mr. Haworth mentioned for everyone to please wear your masks and continue to social distance. Please stay vigilant.

5. 2021 Food Permits Huttleston Marketplace

- a. Mr. Richard stated he has been asking for our opinion on allowing people to have temporary food permits. Small handful of them will be selling food that is prepackaged. Said each person will have to call the Health Department to make sure whether or not they would need a permit.

Mr. Haworth stated that he did his research and believes that the Huttleston Market is great. Mr. Haworth also said that not only is it a Farmers Market but it is also a Public Market due to crafts being sold so it would need to adhere to the Governors event guidelines.

Mr. Richard stated that there was no ready to eat food at last year's market but other markets allowed it which was why he was asking to do the same in Fairhaven. Also mentioned that people will only be picking up what they will be purchasing and encourages vendors to handle the items instead of the patrons. He stated that last year markets were deemed essential and that Huttleston Marketplace is a certified farmers' market.

Mr. Haworth said that we still have quite a bit of time to discuss the issue and he will further look into how other farm markets are set up. He just wants to make sure that all the rules are being followed.

6. Discussion of Relevant Software

- a. Mr. Deterra stated that he is not against Relevant. It was only stopped because of the lack of funding but he is all for it
Mr. Haworth spoke to Mr. Hicks and they reached a verbal agreement that the amount would be reduced to \$2,400 until the end of the fiscal year and will have as many users as they need. The \$2,400 will be from now until June 30th and come July 1st it will be another price.
Mr. Deterra is all for it. Said we have the money now so we will use it.
Ms. Dupont stated she had an overview and said that it seems very beneficial and user friendly. She also mentioned that after an inspection that once it signed that nothing can be changed and the inspection is locked. It can also be printed on paper as well as emailed right away.
Mr. Ristuccia said he is total agreement with everything and it should be a part of the procedure and that a report should be emailed at the very end of the inspection to the business.
Mr. Haworth made a motion to have the chairman sign for Relevant contract software for the \$2,400 and an email will be sent immediately upon the inspector finishing the inspection of the establishment. Mr. Ristuccia seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous.

7. Animal Permit Amendment

- a. Mrs. Olson would like an amendment to permit the exact animals that they have, the donkey also has a new home.
Mr. Haworth stated that whatever animals are on the permit are the only animals that they must have at any given time. Currently they have 2 horses, 8 sheep, 1 peacock, 20 chickens, 2 alpacas and 2 goats. The Olson's verified that there are no other animals.
Mr. Olson stated that due to a hawk they are down to only 6 chickens.
Mr. Haworth said the permit allows them a max of 20 chickens, so if they wish to have the amount or less that is ok.
Mr. Ristuccia said that it is the owner's responsibility to provide protection for the animals. Said that he will not feel comfortable to increase the number of the animals unless they have good housing. Mr. Ristuccia also stated that he would like to have the unused camper that is on the property to be removed.
Mr. Ristuccia made the motion to improve the amendment application to include 2 horses, 8 sheep, 1 peacock, 20 chickens, 2 alpacas and 2 goats, and would like to review the facility in 90 days to make sure that the animals are safe and to confirm that there are no additional animals. Mr. Haworth seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous.
Mr. Olson asked that if he has the plans with a contractor and its past the 90 days is it ok?
The board stated yes, as long as an effort is being made.

8. Discussion of sewer at 14 Cherrystone Rd.

- a. Mr. Hickox sent a letter requesting the Board of Health's decision to approve a home connection to the West Island sewer system, the property was not connected when the sewer system was constructed, but should have been. Mr. Hickox said he would like a decision tonight as he is working with an anxious seller.
Mr. Ristuccia said he would like to push the decision to the next meeting so further research could be done, a site visit could be conducted as well as a discussion with sewer.

Mr. Haworth made the motion that based on quick research that it should have been connected and that it did exist prior to the creation of the plant, with the condition that it is approved by the Board of Public works for review. The vote passed with two in favor. Mr. Ristuccia abstained.

9. Discuss Board of Health Positions

- a. Mr. Ristuccia said there are four screenings are set for Friday, then they will bring two people to the board to make their decision from there.

10. Set Meeting Schedule

- a. Ms. Dupont suggested that if our meeting goes over 6:30 that a recommendation of switching to the opposite week of school committee.
Mr. Haworth suggested they meet next week to go over the Health Agent position and have a Covid update as well.

11. Invoices and other Business

- a. None

12. Next Meeting Date: February 3, 2021

Mr. Haworth made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Ristuccia seconded it. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.