



Town of Fairhaven
Board of Health

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FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

February 3, 2021

PRESENT: Peter Deterra, Geoffrey Haworth, Michael Ristuccia, Sarah Dupont, Nolan Bernier and David Flaherty

Via Zoom: Jocelyn Bowers

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 27, 2021
Mr. Haworth made the motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Ristuccia seconded the motion.
Vote was unanimous.

4. Health Agent Report of the Covid-19 Update

- a. Ms. Dupont stated our total case count is 1529 with 186 in the last 14 days. The positivity rate is at 6.9%.

Testing at the recreation center is from 10am-12 noon on Saturday.

On Friday January 29th Caregivers are now prioritized in Phase 1. For purposes of the Massachusetts COVID-19 vaccine prioritization, paid and unpaid caregivers directly caring for the individual in the below programs are considered “home based health care workers” and are prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccination within Phase 1.

This specifically includes the individuals enrolled in:

- Community Case Management (CCM) managed by MassHealth.
- Medical Review Team (MRT) Managed by DPH
- Care Coordination Programs Level 3 Managed by DPH
- Pediatric Palliative Care Network managed by DPH
- Medically Complex Programs managed by DDS
- Intensive Family Support managed by DDS
- DESE Program managed by DDS
- Autism Waiver Program managed by DDS

If anyone is concerned if they are eligible for the vaccine they can go onto www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine to check their eligibility Please remember there is a vaccine shortage and appointments open as the vaccine becomes available. On Channel 18 as well as on the Board of Health website and Facebook are instructional videos on how to sign up for the vaccine.

5. Discussion of Huttleston Marketplace

- a. Mr. Haworth stated it was brought to his attention that Huttleston Marketplace is called a Bazaar, and did not realize how the marketplace was operating when he came on. He had created a proposed Farmers Market Regulation as well as an Emergency Farmers Market Regulation that will define what a Farmers Market is and how they will operate. His recommendation to the Board would be to adopt the Emergency regulations for Farmers Markets in town.

A request was made in the Zoom Chat from Andrew Jones requesting the email from Christopher Richard stating why he was not in attendance. The email addressed to the Board of Health Administrative Assistant read:

Hi Jocelyn,

After the last meeting I was under the impression they were going to wait a while to see how things are once we're closer to the summer season. I have a prior commitment for tomorrow night.

In any event, my presence is not needed. My question to the Board was not for me. It was just about what the Board of Health policy is going to be for people applying for Temporary Food permits at any events or locations throughout town. When they make that decision, they can just let me know the answer. No need at all for me to be at the meeting.

*Regards,
Chris R.*

Mr. DeTerra questioned the emergency regulations. Mr. Haworth said that the emergency regulations will stay in place until the Governor says there is no longer a state of emergency in Massachusetts the regulations will be lifted. The Farmers Market regulation's will break down what a farmers market is, and suggested that it is sent over to the agricultural commission to adopt the regulations after the Governor's state of emergency is lifted, and the regulations are what the Board will have going forward and they would be permanent regulations.

Mr. John Farrell (Via Zoom) stated he does not know why it is an extenuating circumstance and when will the Farmers Market Start, also had questions concerning if the meeting was the proper way to adopt the regulations, will the public have feedback, if the emergency regulations were voted on tonight when would they begin as well as the cost of a permit fee.

Mr. Haworth said it is just not limited to the Market Place, any farmers market can start tomorrow. Mr. DeTerra said the regulations fall under the COVID regulations and we are going to get feedback from the agricultural commission and also disclosed that he is on the agricultural commission. Mr. Haworth also stated that there would be a public hearing and the agricultural commission is part of the 45 day review and then a public hearing will be held. The permit fee is \$25. Mr. DeTerra said that fee includes to have inspections to be done.

Mr. Ristuccia said that the regulations are a good idea but we should not vote on the items this evening but we would get public input. Mr. DeTerra agreed to have the public

input. Ms. Dupot said she would have it placed on the website for the public to email the office with their feedback and the office will compile the emails for the board to review.

Karen Vilandry called in to the meeting to give her input. She feels that because we are in a global pandemic and now that there is a new variant that the market place should not take place this year.

6. Hiring Board of Health Position

- a. David Flaherty was interviewed by the Board in the meeting room.
- b. Noland Bernier was interviewed by the Board in the meeting room.
- c. Alison Novack was not present for the interview via zoom. She had asked to be on zoom due to a quarantine situation at home. The board suggested making a phone call to her during a recess to interview her.

Mr. Ristuccia made a motion to recess, seconded by Mr. Haworth. Vote was unanimous at 6:21pm.

6:25 Meeting resumed as Ms. Novak was unreachable. Mr. Deterra would like for the board to make a decision at the next meeting.

Ms. Dupont stated she will continue to serve as the Interim Health Agent until the position is filled. She is not a candidate and did not submit her application to be the permanent health agent for the town.

The Board thanked her for her time.

7. Invoices and other Business

- a. None

8. Next Meeting Date: February 17, 2021 at 5 PM.

Mr. Haworth made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Ristuccia seconded it. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.