



# Town of Fairhaven

## Board of Health

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FAIRHAVEN,  
MASS.

March 31, 2021

PRESENT: Michael Ristuccia, Geoffrey Haworth, David Flaherty, Jocelyn Bowers

ABSENT: Peter DeTerra

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Welcome and Media Notification

- a. Mr. Ristuccia 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 – March 17, 2021  
Mr. Haworth made the motion to approve the minutes of March 17, 2021 with the correction of the minor grammatical errors.  
Mr. Ristuccia seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Health Agent Report and the COVID-19 Update

- a. As of March 23, 2021 total case count is 1823, total case count in the last 14 days is 66. The positivity rate is 4.07% up from the previous last 2 week rate of 1.99%. The total number of tests for the last two weeks is 1767 with 72 being positive.
- b. Testing is available at the recreation center on Saturdays from 10 AM - 12 noon.
- c. Preregistration is available for all persons over the age of 16. The method on how to get preregistered will be on Fairhaven TV.
- d. Educators may be vaccinated on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- e. Starting last week residents 60+ and certain workers became eligible for the vaccine.
- f. April 5, 2021 residents 55+ and residents with 1 certain medical condition are eligible.
- g. April 19, 2021 general public, ages 16+ are eligible.
- h. The State has lifted capacity limits for restaurants, still need to maintain 6ft distancing.
- i. Anyone who is in need of assistance can call the Council on Aging at 508-979-4029.
- j. Massachusetts Home Bound Vaccination Program is for anyone who is in a situation who cannot leave their home for medical reasons. The operating hours for the vaccination program phone line is Monday – Friday 9AM-5PM. 1-833-983-0485.
- k. 1 Percolation test witnessed, 1 System Installation Inspection, 1 Chapter II Inspection, and attended various zoom meetings for Tobacco Compliance, Local Board of Health and COVID-19 State Initiatives.
- l. Mr. Haworth stated we all must still wear a mask even though you've been vaccinated. You can still be a carrier and get COVID. The chances of getting severe COVID is

reduced by getting the vaccine, but it does not completely eliminate the chances of you getting COVID.

**5. Tobacco Sales Regulations**

- a. Mr. Ristuccia stated that what the board should do, in his opinion, is to follow what the state is doing. To make those types of regulations stricter by doing what is proposed is not right.

Mr. Haworth believes that it is an individual's right as long as long as you do not infringe on other people's rights. As far as he is concerned, we cannot make regulations less restrictive than the states regulations, we can only make the regulation stricter than the state regulations. In Mr. Haworth's opinion, they should not make any regulations that are stricter than state regulations.

Mr. Haworth made a motion to have a public hearing on the Tobacco Sales Regulations at the next meeting.

Mr. Ristuccia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Animal Permit Amendment – 10 Charity Stevens Lane**

- a. Mr. Ristuccia stated that the board recently amended the permit and also discussed that it would require plans of housing for the animals.

Mr. Olson said plans have been submitted and approved and that they are waiting on the contractor to obtain the materials and to begin sometime in April.

Mr. Ristuccia said before permitting more animals that the board would like to have a plan for housing and no future animal permits until the shelters are there.

Mr. Haworth stated that information from the office has shown that they have not paid for this current amendment. He also mentioned that the Olson's should check with the Assessor's Office to make sure the property is properly registered as a farm.

Mr. Haworth made a motion to continue without prejudice, the animal permit amendment for 10 Charity Stevens Lane.

Mr. Ristuccia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Shared Services Grant Opportunity**

- a. The Health Agent David Flaherty, said this is a grant from the Center for Sharing Public Health Services. The Town would be going in on the grant with Freetown as well as New Bedford. The grant will be used to help defray the cost of the Public Health Nursing at no cost of the Town. It is for just over 3 years and will be 300k split between Fairhaven, Freetown and New Bedford.

Mr. Haworth stated that anything that the Town can get to help with the bills that will help for the next 3 years is excellent because we know that COVID is not going anywhere anytime soon.

**8. Invoices and other Business**

- a. Mr. Haworth gave his parting words.

**9. Next Meeting Date: April 14, 2021**

Mr. Haworth made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Ristuccia seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.