



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

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FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

September 29, 2021

PRESENT: Michael Ristuccia, Kevin Gallagher, Peter DeTerra, David Flaherty

1. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Michael Ristuccia called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Roll call attendance of the meeting members were taken, all were present.

2. Welcome and Media Notification

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

3. Minutes of the Meeting:

- a. Open Session September 1, 2021
Mr. Gallagher made the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on August 4, 2021. Mr. DeTerra seconded the motion, vote passed.

4. Health Agent Report/ COVID-19 Update

- a. Mr. Flaherty gave his Health Agent Report: As of September 24, 2021: Total Case Count: 2,313. Total Tests in the last 2 weeks 1,845. Total cases in the last two weeks: 94. Positivity Rate of 5.53%. Total vaccinated persons in Fairhaven 9,671. Vaccinated Females is 5,341, 65% Per Capita and 55% Proportion. Fully Vaccinated Males is 4,330, 56% Per Capita and 45% Proportion.
- b. COVID Testing will be until further notice and subject to change at the Emergency Management Building at 150 Sconticut Neck Rd from 10am- 12pm on Saturdays. Acushnet will also be doing COVID testing on Saturdays from 9am-12pm at the Acushnet Council on Aging. Shots and testing can also be obtained at local pharmacies.
- c. FDA released information on the Pfizer Booster Shot.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to allow for use of a single booster dose, to be administered at least six months after completion of the primary series in:

- individuals 65 years of age and older;
 - individuals 18 through 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19; and
 - individuals 18 through 64 years of age whose frequent institutional or occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 puts them at high risk of serious complications of COVID-19 including severe COVID-19.
- d. Currently the Health Office has a tentative date for the SouthCoast Vax Van to come to town on October 20 to do COVID shots. Community nurse will also be doing homebound Flu and COVID vaccines for those who are in need.

- e. Blood pressure clinics are continuing at the Town Hall on October 13th and 27th from 1-2pm in the banquet room.
- f. Mr. Flaherty also followed up with the high school nurse to discuss the 80% Vaccination rate in schools. A short discussion about self-attestation forms that parents could fill out and also discussed the options of how the parents and students could report their vaccination status. DESE also mandated masking in Schools until November 1, 2021. Mr.Gallagher stated he wishes that the state would be a little more persistent to reach the 80% rate.
- g. Mr. Flaherty followed up about masking for allied Health from the last meeting. Mr.Gallgher stated he received information from the State and it does include “Healthcare facilities licensed or operated by the Commonwealth and healthcare practice locations of any provider licensed by a professional board which sits within the Department of Public Health or the Division of Professional Licensure.”
- h. Mosquito and Tick season is in full swing, please see the Board of Health Webpage for information on how to prevent bites and how to protect yourself. Bristol County Mosquito Control has stopped spraying as of September 10, 2021.
- i. Mr. Flaherty attended the Annual Yankee Conference for Health Professionals and it stated it was very informative.
- j. Mr.Flaherty recently inspected the new food establishment, Jersey Mikes for opening, Mr.DeTerra did one title 5 inspection for Mr.Flaherty while he was at the conference. Mr.Flaherty also did one additional title 5 inspection. He also followed up on Rodent complaints as well as trash complaints and Chapter 2 inspections.
- k. Mr. Flaherty also addressed the Boil water order. Miscommunication between residential restaurants, meeting with water superintendent to do a better job if this ever happens again. Health inspector will be handing out rave alert information to get anyone who is an owner, manager/ supervisor to be signed up to stay informed. Mr.Gallagher said that it would be great idea to have any responsible parties to be signed up for the alerts. It was also mentioned that there would be a way for the Health Agent to manually sign up businesses for this reason.

5. Public Bathroom Inspections

- a. Mr.Ristuccia state his concern about bathrooms being inspected at facilities. Mr.Flaherty said anyone who is permitted with us here in the office has a bathroom inspection done at the routine inspections. Mr.Gallagher said the water “hit” was very minimal and that it probably could have been avoided if the bathroom was cleaned. A short discussion ensued on how water is tested at the sites throughout the town. Mr.Ristuccia stated that even though we had the Boil Water order, thankfully we have the Water Department that is testing the water to protect the public.

6. COVID Postcard

- a. Mr.Gallagher stated that when the pandemic began, a mailer went out to every household pertaining to COVID. It has been a long time and due to the numbers increasing, it is good to send out notification. There is no specific data or information on the post card that will not change much. The BOH has the funds available to do the postcard and it is a great way to inform the public. Mr.Ristuccia said it is clean and easy to read and hopefully it will go on people’s refrigerator. Mr.DeTerra agreed. Mr.Ristuccia made the motion to send out the post card and award the bid to the company located in Fairhaven, Mr.DeTerra seconded the motion, vote passed.

7. 2 Pavilion Way

- a. Mr. Flaherty stated that he witnessed the inspection, everything was done correctly and recommended approval.

Mr. DeTerra made the motion to accept the Inspection Report of 2 Pavilion Way, Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion, vote passed.

8. Fee Schedule

- a. Mr. Flaherty said it is good every few years to looking into how to consolidate some of the fee's to be in line with other towns and that it would also make it easier for the owners to obtain the fees. Believes the fee for the permit should reflect the inspection. Mr. Flaherty went over an example of septic fees, main goal is to streamline. Mr. DeTerra said lots of restaurants in town still having a hard time, he would like to take it and digest it a little by little and would like to modify some things but not everything at once. Mr. Gallagher agrees with Mr. DeTerra, he would like to review this and go over it. Tweak where appropriate. Mr. Ristuccia said he would like to table this until the next meeting not the right time to raise rates. Mr. Ristuccia made the motion to table the discussion until the next meeting, Mr. DeTerra seconded the motion, vote passed.

9. 14 Cherrystone Rd.

- a. Mr. Hickox was present. He stated the Board of Health has the bylaw and regulations on who connects to the sewer system. Board of Health told him to get approval from Board of Public Works. Records at public works show there are connections available. Public works denied him to do the work to connect. Concerned the Town of Fairhaven will not execute their bylaws. Mr. DeTerra gave a brief overview of the Sewer Treatment plant and how it was created for homes with stubs only with no future expansion. If there is a stub, then a house could be built. Mr. Ristuccia stated that everything at 14 Cherrystone is still there and believes the home should have been counted and that it was missed. Mr. Ristuccia also said a key factor is that it was being used and taxed. A discussion continued about Mr. Hickox stated he is ready to go to court due to town bylaws being invalid. Mr. DeTerra suggested that a discussion with Mr. Furtado at Public Works is needed to see if the plan can handle another house. Mr. DeTerra made a motion to table 14 Cherrystone to have a further discussion with BPW, Mr. Ristuccia seconded the motion, vote passed.

10. Public Comment

- a. Resident Susan Dwyer who lives on Sconticut Neck had a complaint about a home at the back of her property that has a failed Septic System. She stated that she came to the Health Office before buying her home and found out that all 3 septic systems on the property were failed. The home in the back has yet to replace it. She had said when she pulled the file with Mary (previous Health Agent) that the septic had to be replaced within 2 years. She is very concerned because they are near wetlands, when it rains it smells really badly and the yard is a mess. Mr. Flaherty said that he did go there and he observed a cast iron cover to grade and that he did not detect any odor or trash. Mr. Ristuccia said that if it failed in 2015 then it needs to be addressed. Mr. Ristuccia would like David to look into all the information and that the issue would be on the next agenda.
- b. Amy DeSalvatore would like for the Health Agent to inform all physical therapy places and wonders what other places fall under the mask advisory. She was also concerned that the Town website only said that the State of Emergency was ended and there was nothing

else about the mask advisory. Mr. Ristuccia said the mask advisory is still a gray area on whether or not physical therapy is included. He also stated the Board of Health does everything it can to ensure the health and wealth of the Town.

11. Invoices, Correspondence and Other Business

- a. None

12. Next Meeting Date: October 13, 2021 at 5:00pm.

- a. Mr. DeTerra made the motion to adjourn at 6:10pm, Mr. Ristuccia seconded, vote passed.