



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

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FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2026 MAR 30 PM 12:06

March 11, 2026

PRESENT: Justine Frezza, Brian Meneses, Barbara Acksen, David Flaherty

1. Call to Order

- a. Chair Frezza called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Chair Frezza welcomed everyone.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome and Media Notification

- a. Chair Frezza read the media and recording notifications.

4. Minutes of the Meeting

- a. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses made the motion to accept the minutes of the Public Meeting February 11, 2026. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).

5. Health Agent Report

- a. COVID positivity rate is 2.08% up from 0% for the past two weeks.
- b. Blood pressure and wellness clinics offered every Wednesday at the COA from 1-3 pm.
- c. Measles, pertussis, other childhood diseases, influenza, and RSV are on the rise. Please consult your physician regarding vaccinations.
- d. No Perc tests were witnessed and no Title 5 inspections were witnessed.
- e. Rodent complaints are still coming in. Please be vigilant with trash and birdseed on your property. Consult a licensed exterminator for property treatment in conjunction with neighbors if it seems overwhelming.

- f. Fairhaven home-bound residents qualify for a free home-bound flu vaccine offered by the Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative to provide an in-home vaccine. If you were unable to attend any of the Vaccine Clinics please contact your pharmacy.
- g. Agent Flaherty attended a Title 5 Seminar last week. Information included innovative and alternative septic systems.
- h. Agent Flaherty will be attending an ICSEOC (Incident Command System Emergency Operations Center) Training Seminar for Public Health, sponsored by the Region 5 HMCC and the PEP Coalition on March 31, 2026.
- i. The Southeastern MA Public Health Collaborative has provided medication disposal bags, sharps containers, CPR masks, tick removers, sunscreen, and pill containers (these are available in English and Spanish). There are no longer any COVID test kits. Please visit the Health Department for any of these free items.
- j. The attorney representing 6 Evergreen Street is accessing the property.
- k. Vice Chair Meneses noted for residents to check basements and pumps with all of the snow melting.

6. Discuss Wastewater Treatment Plant Regarding Odor – Agent Flaherty noted that a Wastewater Impact Form is now available on the Town Website. Vinnie Furtado, Public Works Director, provided an overview of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the upgrades required by the State to reduce nitrogen levels. He explained that in 2018, the Town of Fairhaven entered into a consent order allowing eight years (if no extensions) to achieve compliance with nitrogen mitigation requirements. Mr. Furtado reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently under construction; while needing to remain operational during the upgrade process. Mr. Furtado noted upon completion, odor control measures will be implemented at both the beginning and end stages of treatment. Mr. Furtado also indicated that he is exploring the purchase of Dazzle, an additive designed to help control odors during the interim. Mr. Furtado encouraged residents to document the date and time of any odor occurrences using the Wastewater Impact Form, as this information will assist in tracking patterns and potentially identifying contributing factors.

Bob Espindola of 14 John St – addressed the Board and began by thanking the Board of Health and Mr. Furtado. Mr. Espindola stated that, over his 27 years of residence, odors have consistently been an issue, with increased frequency over the past year. Mr. Espindola noted recent tree clearing in the neighborhood may be a contributing factor. Further discussion followed regarding possible contributing factors to the odor and that the use of the Impact Form may help determine the cause. Agent Flaherty will have Mr. Furtado included on the Impact Form.

7. **Discuss and Vote on Payment Plan for Tobacco Violation at Seabreeze Mini Mart** – Agent Flaherty presented a proposed payment plan for the tobacco violation issued to Seabreeze Mini Mart, at the request of the owner. The proposed plan includes 5 payments of \$220.00 each. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to approve the payment plan for Seabreeze Mini Mart, which will be five payments of \$220.00 starting March 27th. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).
8. **Wind Turbine Status** – Agent Flaherty reviewed that Fairhaven Wind has withdrawn all proposed contract changes. Agent Flaherty reported that he contacted Weston & Sampson regarding the possibility of conducting testing; however, the firm responded that they do not have the necessary equipment to perform the requested testing. Member Acksen requested Agent Flaherty reach out to engineering firms to obtain cost estimates for conducting the testing. Member Acksen also inquired whether any information is available regarding the stability of the turbine base. Chair Frezza requested that Agent Flaherty follow up if any inspections have been performed on the wind turbines.
9. **Public Comment** – 2 Minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues
 - a. Joyce Horn of 12 Hope Street – addressed the Board regarding concerns about a neighboring property at 110 Adams Street. Ms. Horn reported that the neighbor is maintaining beehives and inquired about required setback distances from property lines, as well as whether any local ordinances regulate beekeeping. Agent Flaherty noted that the Town currently does not have any ordinances governing beekeeping. Ms. Horn also expressed concern that the same neighbor is feeding squirrels with peanuts and walnuts. She noted that a family member has a nut allergy and does not believe the use of nuts for feeding wildlife should be permitted. Ms. Horn further reported that squirrels are leaving shells throughout her yard and that bird feeders on the property are attracting rodents. Agent Flaherty reported that he has spoken with the property owner at 110 Adams Street regarding best practices for bird feeding and advised relocating the beehives away from the property line. Discussion followed regarding the feasibility of implementing regulations related to bird feeders and beekeeping.
10. **Invoices, Correspondence and any other business that may properly come before the Board not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting**
 - a. Invoices reviewed and approved.
11. **Next Meeting Date** – March 25, 2026 at 5:00pm
12. **Meeting Adjourned** – **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to adjourn the Public Board of Health Meeting, not to return, and open the Public Hearing to discuss and vote

on Animal Regulations. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).

- 13. Public Hearing to Discuss and Vote on Animal Regulations (New Poultry Regulations) –** Agent Flaherty reviewed that the Public Hearing was advertised for two consecutive weeks. There has been no response from the public. Chair Frezza noted there was no one in attendance regarding the Animal Regulation. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to accept the new Animal Regulations known as Poultry Regulations. Member Acksen seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Justine Frezza in favor, Brian Meneses in favor, Barbara Acksen in favor. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).
- 14. Public Hearing Adjourned – Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to close out the Public Hearing. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).