



Town of Fairhaven

Board of Health

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June 03, 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 May 6, 2026. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).

5. Health Agent Report

- a. COVID positivity rate remains at 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. Tick and mosquito season has begun. Bristol County Mosquito Control Project will begin soon. Residents are advised to remain vigilant and check themselves, children, and pets for ticks after spending time outdoors. There is a tick PSA on the webpage and FB page.
- e. No Perc tests were witnessed and no Title 5 inspections were witnessed.

- f. 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.
 - g. 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.
 - h. Agent Flaherty performed two swimming pool inspections.
 - i. Agent Flaherty followed up on eleven Chapter II housing complaints.
 - j. Seasonal beach water testing will begin week of June 8, 2026.
 - k. 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.
 - l. One Impact Form has been received in the past two weeks for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- 6. Wind Turbine Status** – Agent Flaherty reported that both turbines have been operating during the past week. Agent Flaherty reported that two Impact Forms have been received over the past two weeks. Discussion ensued regarding turbine inspection reports, the process for addressing and correcting any issues that may arise with the structure of the turbines, and the anticipated decommissioning of the turbines upon completion of the current contract. The Board requested Agent Flaherty confer with the Town Administrator on the decommissioning plan of the turbines.
- 7. Discussion on Kratom** – Chair Frezza reviewed that Agent Flaherty drafted a Kratom Regulation for the Board’s consideration. The Board reviewed the draft regulation. Discussion ensued regarding which tobacco permit holders would be authorized to sell kratom products, including whether sales should be limited to smoke shops or all tobacco permit holders. Additional discussion included warning label requirements, violations and enforcement, fines and penalties, inspection procedures, and age restrictions for the purchase of kratom products. The Board requested Agent Flaherty revise the draft regulation based on the Board’s comments and submit the updated draft to the Board of Health members for further review.
- 8. Public Comment** – 2 Minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues
- a. **Lora Romney, International Plant and Herbal Alliance** – Ms. Romney thanked the Board of Health for its efforts and offered to provide educational materials

that may assist the Board in regulating kratom. She noted the emergence of additional synthetic products, including pseudo-endoxyl, MGM15, and MGM16. Agent Flaherty responded that the draft regulation includes language covering all synthetic derivatives, which would encompass any newly developed synthetic compounds.

b. Jennifer Mercier – Ms. Mercier thanked the Board of Health for its research and efforts to maintain access to safe, natural leaf kratom products.

c. Shannon Lee – Ms. Lee thanked the Board of Health for working on kratom regulations and for listening to advocates throughout the process.

d. Allison Smith – Ms. Smith expressed her support for the proposed regulation and commended the Board for taking the time to thoroughly research and implement appropriate regulations. She also offered her assistance and guidance based on her background in local public policy.

e. Dylan – Dylan shared that, as a person with a disability, he had been unable to work for three years and stated that natural leaf kratom had enabled him to return to work and support his children. He expressed appreciation for the Board's research efforts and emphasized the distinction between natural leaf kratom and synthetic products.

9. 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.

10. Next Meeting Date – June 17, 2026 at 5:00pm

11. Meeting Adjourned – Chair Frezza encouraged all residents to vote at the local election on June 9, 2026. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).