



Town of Fairhaven Board of Health

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719

Telephone: (508) 979-4023 ext. 125 · Fax: (508) 979-4079

January 7, 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. Health Agent Report

- a. COVID positivity rate is 8.47% for the past two weeks, up from 7.14%. This is from positive tests in a clinical setting only.
- b. Blood pressure and wellness clinics offered every Wednesday at the COA from 1-3 pm.
- c. Measles, pertussis and other childhood diseases are on the rise. Please consult your physician regarding vaccinations.
- d. No Perc tests were witnessed and one Title 5 inspection was 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. Stop the bleed and Narcan training will be at the Fairhaven COA on January 15, 2026. This is a free training offered by the Southeastern Mass Public Health Alliance.

- h. 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.
- i. Agent Flaherty presented Flu and RSV vaccination statistics from the state data.

5. **Discussion of New Poultry Regulations** – Agent Flaherty presented the draft of new proposed poultry regulations. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed poultry regulations. Agent Flaherty will revise the draft and provide it to the Board members for review.

6. **Discuss and Vote on 4 Earle Street Subdivision Plan** - Agent Flaherty reviewed the plan. The subdivision is on Town sewer, but requires wells for water. Discussion ensued regarding the subdivision plan. **Motion:** Vice Chair Meneses made a motion to accept the subdivision plan for 4 Earle Street. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).

7. **Discussion of Short Term Rental Registration** – Agent Flaherty reviewed that there is a Short Term Rental By-Law enacted in 2021. Short Term Rentals need to be permitted with the Town. Agent Flaherty will be working in conjunction with the Building Commissioner on the Short Term Rental Registry.

8. **Wind Turbine Status** – Agent Flaherty reminded everyone that the Select Board meeting will be on January 12, 2026 at 6:30pm. Fairhaven Wind is expected to be presenting a proposal on the contract. Chair Frezza reviewed questions that had been submitted to Weston & Sampson regarding the wind turbines. The following responses were received:

- a. Does the tree clearing from a possible subdivision change the study previously performed? Weston & Sampson advised that while the removal of a large number of trees associated with a potential subdivision could have a measurable impact, it is not likely to be significant enough to alter the conclusions of the original study.
- b. Due to the age of the turbines would replacing the generators make them quieter? Weston & Sampson noted that the power level of any turbine within this class would be approximately the same.
- c. Would both turbines need to be running in order to do any studies? Weston & Sampson indicated that both turbines would need to be running.

Further discussion ensued in regards to obtaining new testing. Agent Flaherty to reach out to Weston & Sampson regarding performing new studies.

Discussion ensued regarding questions and considerations for the Select Board meeting. Chair Frezza would request that the Select Board consider the impact of the turbines on the residents. There needs to be oversight of the contract and a means to contact

Fairhaven Wind. Member Acksen noted that the distance of the turbines to a residence needs to be considered.

Bob Espindola of John Street – noted he plans to attend the Select Board meeting and thanked the Board of Health for having this discussion.

Further discussion ensued from the Board regarding the contract, mitigation plan and topics of discussion for the Select Board meeting. Vice Chair Meneses noted that requesting new testing needs to occur.

9. Public Comment – 2 Minute allowance by Chair on Public Health Issues

10. Next Meeting Date – January 28, 2026 at 5:00pm

11. Meeting Adjourned – Motion: Vice Chair Meneses motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting. Member Acksen seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0-0).