

MEETING OF THE FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF HEALTH  
July 28, 2010

An emergency meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, July 28, 2010. The meeting was duly posted. Board members present were: Peter DeTerra, Dolores Caton and Jeannine Lopes. Also present: Patricia Fowle, Health Agent and Administrative Assistant Bernice Alves.

Mr. DeTerra, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the elevation of the Town to a high risk category for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) by the Department of Public Health (DPH) due to the finding of a positive EEE mosquito pool in Fairhaven on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 by the DPH.

For the Board's review there was much written information from the DPH on EEE, the high risk category and recommendations for Board action. Fairhaven is one of 13 communities placed in the high risk category in Plymouth and Bristol Counties. The Board read the information provided and discussion ensued. The Board felt strongly that public education regarding the dangers of EEE and how to prevent infection and mosquitoes from breeding are of great importance. Ms. Caton and Ms. Lopes also felt equally strongly that the Board should be proactive in protecting the citizens by adopting the DPH recommendation to curb outside activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Mr. DeTerra felt that the high risk category happened too quickly and the Board should educate the public at large before making any restrictive recommendations to the public. Discussion continued.

On motion made by Ms. Lopes and seconded by Ms. Caton, it was voted two in favor and Mr. DeTerra against, that the recommended action steps of the Department of Public Health for communities of high risk category to EEE be adopted as stated in a DPH letter to Boards of Health dated July 27, 2010, specifically:

- Not to hold public outdoor activities at dusk or dawn and discourage members of the public from holding such events
- Educate the residents of the community about the action steps they can take to prevent EEE infection, especially the importance of wearing mosquito repellent
- Take steps to reduce the number of mosquitoes through the use of ground spraying and the reduction of settings where mosquitoes may breed.

There being no other business before the Board, motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 PM was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton.

Patricia Fowle, Health Agent