

MEETING OF THE FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF HEALTH
August 9, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Town Hall on Monday, August 9, 2010. The meeting was duly posted. Board members present were: Peter DeTerra, Dolores Caton and Jeannine Lopes. Also present: Patricia Fowle, Health Agent and Tim Cox, Shellfish Warden.

Mr. DeTerra, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Chairman requested the minutes of the meeting of July 26, 2010 be amended or approved. Motion to approve the minutes of July 26, 2010 was made by Ms. Caton; seconded by Ms. Lopes. Vote was unanimous.

The Chairman requested the minutes of the meeting of July 28, 2010 be amended or approved. Motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2010 was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cox was present to discuss, along with the health agent, the fish kill observed today. The dead fish were seen from Winsegansett Avenue to Wilbur's Point and from the northern most tip of Balsam Street to mid-way of Balsam Street along the south side of Causeway Road. Calls were received regarding dead fish on shore and at the shoreline. Upon investigation by the shellfish warden, harbormaster, health agent, conservation agent and members of the Department of Marine Fisheries it was understood that the fish are all one species, menhaden (poagies) and have been dead for at least 19-24 hours. They appear to have floated in on the tide and southwest wind this morning as there was no evidence of the fish in the water on the previous day. The kill is a naturally occurring event as the species is environmentally sensitive to warm water and the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. The bay waters are the warmest they have been in at least a decade. Ocean front property owners were asked to let the fish be and allow them to move out with the tide and northwest wind, or collect them in black plastic bags and place them for disposal in a provided closed covered dumpster to be located on Hoppy's Landing. The dumpster is to be removed in one to two days. The Board of Public Works is coordinating this effort and broadcasting locally to the affected areas. Town departments will remain active in the situation.

The health agent also reported on the following:

EEE aerial spraying occurred in Fairhaven on Saturday, August 7 as per the approved plan of the Department of Public Health and Department of Agricultural Resources. Mosquito pool testing will continue and the results of the spraying will be known through the findings.

Weekly beach testing continues with good results even with the very warm weather.

A tentative proposal for a pie selling shop that would work in tandem with Pumpnickle's, 23 Center Street was received.

Final FY 2010 budget usage was reviewed by the Board.

The health agent is still using her personal car for work and requested permission to use a loaner car from the BPW. The chairman of the BPW stated the car must be returned within a month but the offer was made to the Board of Health because the BPW acknowledges the dire need of the Board. Board members were in consensus that the use would be acceptable until the Board has met with the finance committee to secure funds for the Board's own car.

There being no other business before the Board, motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton.

Patricia Fowle, Health Agent