

MEETING OF THE FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF HEALTH
January 3, 2011

A regular meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Town Hall on Monday, January 3, 2011. The meeting was duly posted. Board members present: Peter DeTerra, Dolores Caton and Jeannine Lopes. Also present: Patricia Fowle, Health Agent.

Mr. DeTerra, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and requested the minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2010 be amended or approved.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Caton; seconded by Ms. Lopes. Vote was unanimous.

Appearing before the Board was Mary Cabral owner of 33 Nakata Avenue and her son Robert. They wish to add a 24'x26' non-heated storage space with a pull-down attic access over the existing two-car garage. The cottage does not have a cellar and there is no storage area for items they use. The cottage is serviced by a septic system and there are no plans of the system on file in Board records. In 1997 plans had been presented for the same size proposal but for use as a living space. The sitting Board of Health at that time denied the request. Mr. Cabral stated this request is for storage only and believed this avoided the septic issue. A one page plan was presented and is part of this record. Mr. Cabral stated in 2009 engineered plans were presented to the Building Department but the owners never heard anything. It was by happenstance he understood that the Building Department had taken no action on the plans because the proponent had not called for follow-up. The Chairman explained that the Board of Health has no control over the Building Department process. The Chairman then read Board of Health Chapter 5, Section 11. which requires a septic system be brought into compliance before any alteration of a structure can be allowed. Mr. Cabral took deference to the regulation stating the Cabrals had received approval to enclose an existing porch in 2003. Mr. DeTerra stated the porch was an existing structure and not considered an alteration as the addition being proposed is. Ms. Lopes stated the project is not being denied, but rather the Board is complying with its long-standing regulations. Ms. Caton stated the regulations guide the process.

Motion to require a Title 5 inspection was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Fowle reported on the following:

A meeting request was received from the New Bedford Health Department regarding two State grants, one to fund regional public health districts planning and a second to fund tobacco and alcohol prevention. Dartmouth, Acushnet and Freetown were also invited. No meeting date has been set.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been working with the health agent to abate a nuisance complaint from the use of an outdoor wood-fired boiler at 68 Pleasant Street. The owner of the boiler has been in conversation with the Board office and DEP and reported today that he has added 4' to the boiler stack. The stack is now 3' higher than the tallest chimney in the area which is 115' away from the boiler. No complaints have been received by the office since December 13, 2010. DEP was also made aware of the information.

Motion to write a letter to the owners of 68 Pleasant Street stating the above facts was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton. Vote was unanimous.

The proposed FY 2012 budget was reviewed.

Motion to approve was made by Ms. Caton; seconded by Ms. Lopes. Vote was unanimous.

Invoices and payroll were reviewed and signed by the Board.

There being no other business before the Board, motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton. Vote was unanimous. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

Patricia Fowle, Health Agent