

MEETING OF THE FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF HEALTH  
January 9, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Town Hall on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was duly posted. Board members present: Jeannine Lopes, Dolores Caton and Peter DeTerra. Also present: Patricia Fowle, Health Agent. Ms. Lindsey Gordon, resident, observer.

Mr. DeTerra, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and asked that the minutes of the meeting of December 19, 2011 be amended or approved.

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

The Board reviewed a letter from Alan Ewing, PE of Fairhaven regarding a septic system at 300 New Boston Road, property owned by Mr. & Ms. Almeida. A new garage was constructed that had approval from the Board of Health. Due to a complaint, the health agent performed an inspection along with the Building Commissioner and it was found that the second floor of the garage had been made into habitable space. The property is served by a 1991 septic system constructed under the 1978 Title 5 code and the question whether the system could handle the new flow needed to be resolved. Mr. Ewing's written response is part of this record in which he concludes that the system design could handle a six-bedroom flow. The dwelling, with the new habitable space, is now considered a four-bedroom dwelling. The health agent stated that because the percolation test and design are from the 1978 Title 5 code, it is recommended that the existing septic system be allowed to remain in use with the condition that any future dwelling alteration or construction require compliance with the new Title 5 including but not limited to a 1500 gallon septic tank and a groundwater elevation determination. Discussion ensued.

Motion to allow the existing septic system to remain in use, with the condition that with any subsequent addition of any new habitable space the existing septic system be brought into compliance with the new Title 5 requirements including but not limited to, a properly sized septic tank and a watertable elevation determination was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton. Vote was two in favor and one abstention.

The Board reviewed a request from 25 Nelson Avenue, Joseph Swift owner. He has recently constructed a garage and would like to place a toilet in the garage which will serve for people using the family pool. The lot is large and it can be difficult to access the house facility when busy in the yard, pool and garage. The existing septic system is to code. There is no new habitable space in the garage. Discussion ensued.

Motion to allow one toilet in the garage to be hooked into the existing septic system by use of a septic tank, pump chamber and force main was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton. The vote was two in favor and one abstention.

Health Agent's report:

All 2013 food establishment permits have been issued. All food stores have an employee with the required Certified Food Manager and food allergen certificates.

The proposed fiscal 2013 budget was reviewed which showed a marked decrease in the laboratory budget. The health agent noted that the Department of Environmental Protection triennial laboratory inspection will occur in the Spring of 2013 and much of the equipment will need replacement due to its nearly 30 years of age. The replacement cost can easily run to \$25,000. The balance of life of the laboratory vs. cost was discussed. Additionally it was noted by the health agent that with the loss of staff in the Board office and increased responsibilities throughout the health agent's job duties, it has become increasingly difficult to find the required time to operate the laboratory with the dedication and fastidiousness it

requires. The health agent respectfully recommended the Board to phase out the laboratory at the end of fiscal year 2012. Additional aspects of the proposed budget were reviewed. Discussion ensued.

Motion to approve the budget as proposed was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton. Vote was unanimous. The chairman would like a letter sent to the Board of Public Works informing them of their vote on the laboratory.

There were no restaurant inspections to review.

The part-time administrative assistant will be on vacation the week of January 16.

Invoices and payroll were reviewed and signed by the Board.

There being no other business before the Board, motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM was made by Ms. Lopes; seconded by Ms. Caton. Vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:30 PM.

Patricia Fowle, Health Agent