

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF HEALTH
August 28, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Town Hall on Monday, August 28, 2012 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was duly posted. Board members present: Barbara Acksen, Jeannine Lopes and Peter DeTerra. Also present: Patricia Fowle, Health Agent.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and asked that the minutes of the meeting of July 23, 2012 be amended or approved.

Ms. Lopes motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Acksen seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The Board reviewed the final DRAFT of the "Regulation of the Fairhaven Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products". The Chairman asked for a motion to set a public hearing for public review and comments on the proposed regulations. Ms. Lopes questioned if a notice of the hearing will be placed in a local newspaper. The health agent stated yes.

Ms. Lopes motioned to hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed regulation on Monday, September 17, 2012 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. Ms. Acksen seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The health agent reported on the following:

There is a prevalence of West Nile Virus carrying mosquitoes throughout the area. Residents have been calling about the large number of mosquitoes in general and are advised to follow the Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines for preventing mosquito bites. The Chairman gave the telephone number of the Bristol County Mosquito Control for residents to request mosquito spraying at their properties.

Rabid foxes were caught on August 7 and 21 and additional symptomatic foxes were retrieved on August 25 by the ACO on Birchfield Street working with the Police Department. Utilizing reverse 9-1-1 and working through the Fire Department, the health department informed residents within a ¼ mile radius of Birchfield Street of the incidents and their outcomes. The ACO has informed the Board office that an additional fox remains to be caught.

Summer beach water quality testing ended August 27. Beach waters were very good throughout the summer with only one, one-day closure required at Sandy Beach Association.

There are two food establishment complaints that the health agent will investigate while the food inspector is out for the week.

The public health nurse has recommended flu clinic dates be tentatively set though there is no word on when the vaccine will arrive. This year the Board may use the vaccine for whoever attends its clinics. Upon discussion by the Board the anticipated dates are Tuesday, October 2 and Thursday, October 4. The health agent will assure the clinic doctor, nurses and Recreation Center are available.

In the audience was Karen Isherwood, 3 Teal Circle, who was acknowledged by the Chairman.

Ms. Isherwood asked to speak regarding the wind turbines. She noted that the wind turbines are often times off during the day. She asked the Board to plead her case to the Selectmen to ask if the turbines could be turned off at least one night per week so that the neighborhood could sleep. She reasoned that if they are off in the day, then they could be off at least one night per week. The Chairman stated the request is not under the purview of the Board of Health but it would be passed to the Selectmen.

Also present was Phil Washko, 535 Sconticut Neck Road, who commended the Board for being receptive and working toward the good of all of Fairhaven. He acknowledged the Board's efforts in securing a web based complaint form for the turbines and getting the Department of Environmental Protection to do a sound study on the wind turbines. He stated the Board is both thoughtful and responsive.

The health agent and Chairman informed the Board of their involvement at the Oxford School which is being readied for use for one year by the Wood School student body while their new elementary school is being constructed on the Sconticut Neck Road site. The health agent was informed by the school superintendent Dr. Baldwin that their environmental consultant had done a preliminary air quality test which showed elevated mold spore levels in the building. The consultant, Dr. Miller of Fuss & O'Brien met with representatives of the school department and the health agent and Board Chairman on Friday. It was determined that the elevated count was most likely due to "historical mold" because the building has been closed up for 4 to 5 years with materials stockpiled within. Dr. Miller recommended airing the building to circulate the old air out and to do a thorough cleaning over the weekend. A follow up test was taken on Monday, August 27 with results anticipated by Wednesday, August 29. In the interim Dr. Mike Feeney of the DPH, Bureau of Health Risk Assessment was called in to consult as well. A meeting and site tour conducted by both Dr. Feeney and Dr. Miller is planned for August 30. It is anticipated the new round of analysis will indicate the levels are low and normal and the school can be opened on September 4 as anticipated after the school department moved the opening date for this school from the original planned date of August 28. All three Board members expressed interest in observing the on-site. The health agent will inform the members when the two consultants arrive, which should be about 10:00 AM.

Invoices and payroll were reviewed and signed by the Board.

There being no other business before the Board, Ms. Lopes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM Ms. Aksen seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Patricia Fowle, Health Agent