

**Town of Fairhaven**  
Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719



**Belonging Committee**

**Date, Time, and Location:**

March 20, 2024, 6:30 PM

Remote Only via ZOOM: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 892 1866 8394;

Passcode: 686316

Live recording available at: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11047703>

**Meeting Overview:**

1. **Call to order** and review of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law

2. **Quorum/Attendance**

*In attendance:*

Members: Laura Barillaro; Jessica Fidalgo, Chair; Alliea E. Group, Clerk; Greg Weider, Vice Chair.

Ex Officio: Det. Jerome Penha, Jr., Police Department Rep.;

*Absent:*

Ex Officio: Leon E. Correy, III, Select Board Rep.; Cameron Durant, Staff Liaison;

Members: Richard Cancio; Rachel Mederios.

Vacant Positions: Fire Department Representative; School Department Representative.

3. **Approve prior minutes:** *A motion was made by Greg Weider and seconded by Laura Barillaro to approve the minutes from February 2024. A roll call vote was held to approve as submitted; the motion passed unanimously.*

**New Business**

4. **April Food Drive**

In partnership with the Fairhaven Lions Club, Fairhaven Rotary Club District 7950, and sponsoring businesses, collection boxes have been distributed throughout town. On Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9-1 at the Council on Aging Senior Center/Recreation Center located at 229 Huttleston Ave. The food collected will be distributed to seniors and families in need and donated to the First Congregational Church Food Pantry.

5. **Diversability Celebration:** The event, being sponsored by the Commission on Disability, the Belonging Committee, and M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc., is currently being planned, more information should be available at our next meeting.

6. **Pride Day Events:**

*A motion was made to request that the committee submit a request to the Select Board to display the Progress Pride Flag at Town Hall during the month of June by Alliea Group and seconded by Greg Weider. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed unanimously.*

7. **Juneteenth Celebration:** On Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, the nation will celebrate Juneteenth. This holiday celebrates the Emancipation Proclamation which was issued by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863 and from henceforth declared that all slaves were

to be set free. However, due to many areas still being under Confederate Control and the slow passage of information to rural areas, it would be many years until all slaves were actually freed. In Confederate-controlled Texas, on June 19, 1865 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas to announce that the more than 250,000 enslaved people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day has been long celebrated by those freed and their descendants and in 2021 it was declared a federal holiday. A motion was made to submit a request to the Select Board to display the Juneteenth flag at Town Hall during the month of June by Alliea Group and seconded by Laura Barillaro. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed unanimously.

8. **Not In Our Town:** This discussion was tabled until our next meeting.
9. **Communication/Programming with Fairhaven Police Department:** A motion was made to assign Rachel Medeiros to collaborate on future programming with the Police Department on behalf of the Belonging Committee by Laura Barillaro and seconded by Alliea Group. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

##### **10. Black History Month**

The committee presented two movie screenings at the Millicent Library:

***Hidden Figures***, Wednesday, February 21st at 6 pm. "Hidden Figures" is based on the true events that unfolded during the early days of the U.S. space program. The story revolves around three brilliant African-American women mathematicians Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, who played pivotal roles at NASA, contributing to the success of the historic space missions.

***Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*** Friday, February, 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" (2018, PG), an award-winning animated movie, featuring Miles Morales, the first black Spider-Man in the comic book's universe (introduced in 2011).

#### **Items not Previously Anticipated/Board Member Comments**

Thanks and gratitude were given to Leon E. Correy, III, a founding member of the Belonging Committee. As of April 1, 2024, he will not be serving on the Select Board; so, he will no longer serve as our Select Board representative.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Jessica Fidalgo at 7 PM.

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Alliea E. Group

Signed by: