



Fairhaven Charter Committee

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Outline

- What is a Charter?
 - Why a Charter now?
 - Process of Charter
 - Fairhaven Bylaws vs. Dartmouth Charter
 - Questions from Town Meeting Members
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Charter Information

What is a Charter?

A Town Charter is a constitution for your town. It clarifies how a town government functions and operates. A Town Charter describes the basic laws, principles, powers and duties of a town. It explains the responsibilities of the Selectboard, Town Administrator, Town Meeting, all Boards and Committees.

Why a Charter Now?

The Town of Fairhaven is governed by a series of bylaws that were enacted over a long period of time. A Town Charter provides clarity in our government structure. It can also serve as a guide for Town Officials, employees, and YOU, residents of our community, on how our government functions.

Charter Process

- Appointed nine member Fairhaven Charter Committee conducts study of current and comparable governments
 - Reports are vetted with public review and Mass General Court
 - Final report is brought to Town Meeting to allow voters to vote on charter
 - If approved at town meeting, town wide voters will vote to either approve or reject adoption of a charter
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Fairhaven Bylaws

Division 1, Bylaws

Part I, Administrative Legislation

Chapter 1 **General Provisions** (§ 1-1 – § 1-7)

Chapter 2 **Finances** (§ 2-1 – § 2-7)

Chapter 3 **Agricultural Commission** (§ 3-1 – § 3-5)

Chapter 6 **Community Preservation Committee** (§ 6-1 – § 6-6)

Chapter 8 **Conservation Commission** (§ 8-1 – § 8-2)

Chapter 12 **Constables** (§ 12-1 – § 12-2)

Chapter 16 **Council on Aging** (§ 16-1 – § 16-3)

Chapter 22 **Data Processing Center** (§ 22-1 – § 22-5)

Chapter 28 **(Reserved)**

Chapter 33 **Finance Committee** (§ 33-1 – § 33-8)

Chapter 37 **Finance, Department of** (§ 37-1 – § 37-4)

Chapter 40 **Capital Planning Committee** (§ 40-1 – § 40-7)

Part II, General Legislation

Chapter 82 **Alarms** (§ 82-1 – § 82-5)

Chapter 83 **Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs** (§ 83-1 – § 83-4)

Chapter 87 **Animals** (§ 87-1 – § 87-11)

Chapter 93 **Building Construction** (§ 93-1 – § 93-2)

Chapter 97 **Buildings, Numbering of** (§ 97-1 – § 97-5)

Chapter 103 **Demolition Delay** (§ 103-1 – § 103-6)

Chapter 106 **Entertainment** (§ 106-1 – § 106-2)

Chapter 110 **Excavations and Wells** (§ 110-1 – § 110-2)

Chapter 113 **Explosives and Inflammable Materials** (§ 113-1 – § 113-3)

Chapter 119 **Fees** (§ 119-1 – § 119-4)

Chapter 122 **Fire Prevention and Protection** (§ 122-1 – § 122-8)

Chapter 125 **Garages, Service Stations and Unregistered Motor Vehicles**
(§ 125-1 – § 125-11)

Division 2, Board of Selectmen

Chapter 204 **Alcoholic Beverages** (§ 204-1 – § 204-10)

Chapter 206 **Animals** (§ 206-1)

Chapter 207 **Council on Aging** (§ 207-1 – § 207-12)

Chapter 208 **Houseboats** (§ 208-1 – § 208-5)

Chapter 212 **Marine Resources Committee** (§ 212-1)

Chapter 218 **Shellfish Regulations** (§ 218-1 – § 218-35)

Chapter 220 **Special Municipal Employees** (§ 220-1)

Chapter 225 **Union Wharf** (§ 225-1 – § 225-2)

Division 3, Planning Board

Chapter 306 **Fees** (§ 306-1)

Chapter 316 **Procedural Rules** (§ 316-1 – § 316-10)

Chapter 322 **Subdivision of Land** (§ 322-1 – § 322-49)

Division 4, Board of Health

Chapter 401 **General Provisions** (§ 401-1 – § 401-4)

Chapter 405 **Animals** (§ 405-1 – § 405-8)

Chapter 412 **Dairy Products** (§ 412-1 – § 412-2)

Chapter 416 **Disease Control** (§ 416-1 – § 416-2)

Chapter 422 **Fees** (§ 422-1 – § 422-2)

Chapter 426 **Food Service Establishments** (§ 426-1 – § 426-1c)

Chapter 432 **Individual Sewage Disposal Systems** (§ 432-1 – § 432-7)

Chapter 437 **Landfill** (§ 437-1 – § 437-7)

Chapter 442 **Massage Parlors and Baths** (§ 442-1 – § 442-4)

Chapter 448 **Nuisances** (§ 448-1 – § 448-6)

Chapter 454 **Places of Assembly** (§ 454-1)

Chapter 461 **Rodents** (§ 461-1 – § 461-3)

Chapter 466 **Sanitation** (§ 466-1 – § 466-19)

Chapter 471 **Solid Waste** (§ 471-1 – § 471-22)

Chapter 475 **Swimming Pools** (§ 475-1 – § 475-2)

Chapter 479 **Tobacco Control** (§ 479-1 – § 479-23)

Chapter 483 **Water** (§ 483-1 – § 483-2)

Chapter 487 **Wells** (§ 487-1)

Chapter 491 **West Island Sewer Enterprise Zone** (§ 491-1 – § 491-6)

Division 5, Zoning Board of Appeals

Chapter 493 **Comprehensive Permits, Rules and Regulations Governing** (§ 493-1 – § 493-10)

Appendix

Chapter A501 **Acceptances of General Laws** (§ A501-1)

Chapter A502 **Special Acts** (§ A502-1 – § A502-8)

Disposition List

Chapter DL **Disposition List** (§ DL-1)

Dartmouth Charter

Town of Dartmouth, MA / The Charter

← Chapter C Charter

[HISTORY: Updated 10-16-2007. Other amendments noted where applicable.]

Article 1 Incorporation; Short Title; Powers

- Section 1-1 Incorporation.
- Section 1-2 Short title.
- Section 1-3 Powers of the Town.
- Section 1-4 Division of powers.
- Section 1-5 Construction.
- Section 1-6 Intergovernmental relations.
- Section 1-7 Definitions.

Article 3 Elected Officers

- Section 3-1 In general.
- Section 3-2 Select Board.
- Section 3-3 School Committee.
- Section 3-4 Board of Assessors.
- Section 3-5 Parks and Recreation Board.
- Section 3-6 Board of Health.
- Section 3-7 Board of Library Trustees.
- Section 3-8 Town Moderator.
- Section 3-9 Park Commission. (Deleted)
- Section 3-10 Planning Board.
- Section 3-11 Town Clerk.

Article 2 Legislative Branch

- Section 2-1 Town Meeting form.
- Section 2-2 Composition, term of office.
- Section 2-3 Precincts.
- Section 2-4 Candidates.
- Section 2-5 Election.
- Section 2-6 Vacancies.
- Section 2-7 Compensation.
- Section 2-8 Presiding officer.
- Section 2-9 Time of Annual Meeting.
- Section 2-10 Special Town Meetings.
- Section 2-11 Town Meeting warrants.
- Section 2-12 Availability of Town officials at Town Meetings; participation in proceedings.
- Section 2-13 General powers.
- Section 2-14 Town Meeting procedures.

Article 4 Administrative Organization

- Section 4-1 Organization of Town agencies.
- Section 4-2 Appointment procedures.
- Section 4-3 Department of Budget and Finance.
- Section 4-4 Department of the Town Administrator.
- Section 4-5 Department of Public Works.
- Section 4-6 Historical Commission.

Article 5 Finances and Fiscal Procedures

- Section 5-1 Fiscal year.
- Section 5-2 School Committee Budget.
- Section 5-3 Submission of budget and budget message.
- Section 5-4 Budget message.
- Section 5-5 The budget.
- Section 5-6 Action on the budget.
- Section 5-7 Capital improvements program.

Article 6 General Provisions

- Section 6-1 Elections.
- Section 6-2 Charter changes.
- Section 6-3 Severability.
- Section 6-4 Rules of construction.
- Section 6-5 Rules and regulations.
- Section 6-6 Certificate of election or appointment.
- Section 6-7 Periodic review, Charter and by-laws.
- Section 6-8 Procedures governing multiple member bodies.
- Section 6-9 Removals and suspensions.
- Section 6-10 Notice of vacancies.

Article 7 Transitional Provisions

- Section 7-1 Continuation of existing laws.
- Section 7-2 Continuation of government.
- Section 7-3 Continuation of administrative personnel.
- Section 7-4 Transfer of records and property.
- Section 7-5 Time of taking effect.

Questions from
Town Meeting
members?

Thank you all for
taking the time
to listen to our
presentation!



Thank You!