



Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719
Telephone: 508-979-4023

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2023 OCT 11 PM 1:58

LAGOA FRIENDSHIP PACT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting – August 15, 2023

Present: Ms. Carvalho, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pinto, Ms. Longinidis, Mr. Chris Richard

Ms. Carvalho opened the meeting.

Ms. Carvalho read the Massachusetts law that mandates the recording of town meetings. Ms. Carvalho announced that the meeting was being recorded on the government access channel and would be replayed on channel 18 and posted on fairhaventv.com.

Old Business

Due to lack of quorum in the previous meeting, the committee could not approve the minutes for the January 11 meeting. Ms. Carvalho asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes of the January 11 meeting. All answered that they had. Ms. Longinidis made a motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Pinto seconded it. The minutes for the January 11 meeting were approved.

Ms. Carvalho asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes of the May 31 meeting. All answered that they had. Ms. Pinto made a motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Longinidis seconded it. The minutes for the May 31 meeting were approved.

New Business

Ms. Carvalho introduced two new members of the committee, Mr. Chris Richard and Ms. Despina Longinidis. Ms. Carvalho welcomed them to the committee.

Ms. Carvalho extended an invitation to the public to join the committee as well.

Ms. Carvalho presented the Lagoa Committee banner that was to be used in the Our Lady of Angels Procession. Ms. Carvalho indicated that members of the committee would march in the procession to pay homage to the immigrants that came here before us. She also extended an invitation to descendants of immigrants and anyone else who may want to join in the procession. Ms. Carvalho indicated the significance of participating in the Our Lady of Angels celebration, as it was started by immigrants from Lagoa. The procession will start in front of St. Mary's Church at 1pm on the Monday of Labor Day.

Ms. Carvalho also indicated that the members of the committee will take a group photo with the banner. The photo will be sent to the Municipality of Lagoa as a present from the Town of Fairhaven. We will also hang a framed photo in the Fairhaven Town Hall.

Mr. Richard introduced himself as the staff liaison assigned to this committee. He indicated that he is not a voting committee member. He will be at the meetings to oversee the committee, make suggestions and to keep the committee on track. He asked a few questions to the committee. He mentioned that the committee is supposed to have 9 members: 5 at large and 4 appointed: one from the business community, one designated by the school committee, one designated by the Economic Development Committee, and lastly one designated by the Historical Commission. Ms. Carvalho indicated that we do not have representatives from these committees. Mr. Richard suggested publicizing the information or reaching out to the committees again asking them to appoint members to the Lagoa Committee. Mr. Richard spoke about other rules that the committee must follow, such as re-appointments, video trainings on ethics, and member information to be posted on the town website.

Ms. Longinidis mentioned that she moved to Fairhaven in the last year. She expressed how welcoming the town has been to her. She wanted to join the town and assist in any way she could. The Lagoa Committee caught her attention because of its cultural component.

The committee members mentioned the importance of student exchange programs between Fairhaven and Lagoa, and how appointees from the School and Economic Development Committee may help facilitate those discussions.

Mr. Richard told the committee that he will be leading the Kids Fest on October 14. There will be all sort of activities for children, who usually come in costume. Town committees are also sometimes invited to attend, and Mr. Richard extended an invitation to the Lagoa Committee perhaps for next year's event. It would be a good opportunity to talk about Lagoa and Portuguese heritage to the community. Ms. Carvalho volunteered to bake Portuguese cookies to the children at the event. Mr. Richard mentioned that it would be interesting to have a Portuguese folk-dance group participate in the kids fest. Ms. Carvalho indicated that she would reach out to some of her contacts about this.

Mr. Murphy reminded the audience of the times and activities for the Our Lady of Angels Feast.

Ms. Longinidis made a motion to adjourn, Ms Pinto seconded it.

Respectfully submitted,

Cristina Martins Pinto

Cristina Martins Pinto