

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
April 4, 2022**

**Present**

Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Cameron Durant, Commissioner  
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner  
Steve Riley, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager



**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. March 21, 2022**

Mr. Durant motioned to approve the minutes of March 21, 2022. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

**A. n/a**

**V. Item for Action**

**A. Request from Council on Aging to install six benches at Grimshaw Park**

Mr. Furtado - We received a request from the Council on Aging to install six benches at Grimshaw Park that were donated. We will reach out to the Council on Aging for a plan of where they would like the benches located and Mr. Charbonneau will get a price together on how much it will cost to install them.

Mr. Lavalette - This place gets very wet and the water floods into the pickleball courts. Near the stonewall would probably be the best place.

Mr. Ferro motioned to approve the Request for Service from the Council on Aging and install six benches at Grimshaw Park. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VI. Tabled Matter**

**A. Memorial Benches at Fort Phoenix**

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Mr. Hobson motioned to bring the discussion of Memorial Benches at Fort Phoenix back to the table. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Furtado - Back in 2015 the Board of Public Works put a moratorium on the number of benches that could be placed at Fort Phoenix. In addition, you asked me to reach out to the State to see if we could put benches on the State side, but I have not heard back from them at this time. I suggest if you remove the moratorium, to put a cap on how many benches could be placed at Fort Phoenix.

Mr. Hobson – When I voted back in 2015 not to allow any more benches at Fort Phoenix I was under the assumption that there was not enough room to install anymore benches. I walked around there today, there is plenty of room and we could probably put 4-6 more benches there.

Mr. Furtado - Whatever the Board decides but there needs to be a cap on how many more benches we will allow because I do not want to visit this again.

Mr. Durant - I would like to see a lottery system for these benches to give everyone a fair opportunity.

Mr. Lavalette – The State does not have any benches on their side, they removed them and they probably will not be reinstalled. Our property can easily have four more benches installed. Just understand that it will be tough for the Park Department to cut around them, as it is already tough to cut around the existing benches.

Mr. Furtado - That is why the Board put the moratorium in place back in 2015.

Mr. Riley - I agree with Mr. Hobson and think that we could allow six more benches at Fort Phoenix. I would like to see one bench approved per year so it gives everyone a chance to get one since these benches are usually donated in memory of a loved one.

Mr. Ferro motioned to lift the moratorium on benches at Fort Phoenix and allow six more benches to be installed with a limit of one per year. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

Mr. Lavalette - The BMX track is certainly fundable and I hope they are putting an article in next year. I think they should submit a list of people that use the track like they did for the pickleball courts. Just looking to see if you could reach out to whoever is in charge of the BMX track and see if they could do this.

Mr. Ferro – Macomber Park is a park that is not getting used. If we make it attractive for people that do this type of activity then it will attract people to come and use it.

Mr. Wotton – The BMX track is used mostly by kids. During the summer and on the weekends there are between 6-12 people there at a time. They also have a Facebook page that you can follow them on. I do not think that submitting a list will do anything.

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Mr. Lavalette- We have a lot of trees that have been planted through the Town and I am just wondering whose jurisdiction it is to maintain them after they are planted?

Mr. Furtado – If it is a public shade tree than that would fall under the Tree Warden. If the Tree is in a Park then it would fall under the Park Commissioners.

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

**Superintendent Report for April 4, 2022**

- Meet with highway union and labor attorney re grievance
- Attend wastewater license training
- Reach out to State re memorial benches on state side
- Meet with MRV subcommittee re water plant upgrade
- Meet with MRV and DEP re upgrade to Water Plant
- Meet with Town Counsel re 14 Cherrystone
- Attend BBAC Meeting as Town Rep
- Attend Fincom for BPW General Fund - no quorum - will return April 7
- Informed Fincom about MRV Article
- Bridge RFP finally posted
- CDBG for Hedge St engineering posted and bids received
- Meet with Stormwater Engineer re annual report and permit requirements
- Review and approve Rochester ANR Plan for MRV
- MRV language for 3 Town borrowing Article drafted and forwarded to bond counsel

Mr. Furtado answered any questions that the Board had regarding the Superintendent Report.

Mr. Hobson - What is going on with Bridge Street?

Mr. Furtado - We met with the State via zoom in March. The State gave us permission to do a phase 2 assessment. Depending what the samples reveal is how much cleanup we will have to do.

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**B. Board Members**

**C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters**

Mr. Hobson – There was nothing to report since we have not met since our last meeting.

**IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting**

Mr. Durant motioned to set the date for the next meeting on April 11, 2022 at 6:15p.m. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

**X. Adjourn & Executive Session**

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 p.m. and enter into executive session to discuss West Island Sewer Moratorium and Highway Grievance and to reconvene in open session. Rollcall vote Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Durant, Mr. Ferro and Mr. Riley in favor.

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 p.m. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L. Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Office Manager

Minutes approved on April 26, 2022