



Fairhaven Select Board Meeting Minutes July 18, 2022

Present: Select Board members Chair Stasia Powers, Vice-Chair Leon Correy, Clerk Robert Espindola, Select Board member Keith Silvia, Select Board member Charles Murphy Sr., Town Administrator Angie Lopes Ellison and Administrative Assistant Vicki Oliveira.

Also present: Harbormaster Tim Cox

The meeting was videotaped by Cable Access and Zoom meeting application.

Ms. Powers opened meeting at 6:32 pm and asked for a moment of silence for Nelson Camara, brother of Information Technology Director Christopher Camara who passed suddenly last week.

Fairhaven Police Swearing In

Town Clerk Linda Fredette sworn in Alexander T. Silva, the newest member of the Fairhaven Police Department in front of family and friends. Officer Silva is a 26-year-old resident of Fairhaven who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Bridgewater State University and is a recent graduate of the 4th Recruit Officer Class from the Cape Cod Municipal Police Academy. He previously worked as a Civilian Dispatcher with the Fairhaven Police Department prior to being appointed as a Police Officer.

At 6:36 pm Ms. Powers said there will be a brief recess so Officer Silva can take some pictures with his family and the Select Board. The meeting re opened at 6:41 pm.

Minutes

The minutes were not ready so this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

Town Administrator Report

Ms. Ellison update the Select Board on:

Southcoast Community Foundation Scholarship winners / Bobby Brusio Memorial Scholarship winner

- The students were unavailable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

Staffing Updates

- Ms. Ellison was excited to announce the hiring of Cameron Durant as the Human Resources Director; he is expected to begin August 1, 2022. Mr. Durant was in attendance and said he looks forward to starting his employment and will hit the ground running.

Motion: Murphy motioned to approve the Town Administrator's appointment of Cameron Durant as the Human Resources Director. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0-0)

Eversource Customer Rates

- Eversource will be increasing their rates; the increase is expected to be about \$15 per month for most customers. Ms. Powers encouraged residents to join the electric aggregation program through the town as an option for better rates.

Select Board Correspondence

- Select Board members to include the correspondence they may be getting as part of the agenda. There will be a correspondence as an item each week to the agenda.

Union Wharf Grant Award and West Island Dredging

- Harbormaster Tim Cox said he and Town Planner Paul Foley have been working to continue the work at Union Wharf. The Marine Resources Department and the Planning and Economic Development Department have been awarded two grants from the Seaport Economic Council totaling in the amount of \$1,200,000.00. The first grant awarded, written by Town Planner Paul Foley is \$1,000,000.00. This grant will serve to begin the process of fixing the North Side of Union Wharf. The Town match awarded is \$250,000.00.
- The Town also received a grant for \$200,000.00 to fund the West Island Dredging Project to get 'shovel ready' before the project can begin. Once the West Island Dredging is 'shovel ready', other grants can be applied to the Massachusetts Dredging Program. Harbormaster Cox said the Town match award was \$40,000.00.

Grant writer summary

- The Town's grant writer has aided the town for grants totaling more than one million dollars.

Other

- The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 due to some staffing shortages.
- The handicap door opening is 15 seconds not 45 as previously stated but can be increased if necessary.
- Public Works Department are currently replacing water meters but due to a supply chain issue the process is taking longer than anticipated.
- Mr. Espindola forwarded an email from a concerned resident over noise coming from the wind turbines stating there may be a mechanical issue.

Committee Liaison Reports

Mr. Espindola reported:

- The Fairhaven Bikeway Committee Chair Amy Roderick is working on the next meeting date.
- The Southcoast Bikeway Alliance met last week to discuss logistics for their Pedal for the Path fundraiser, to be held on Sunday, September 1, 2022.
- Ms. Ellison and Mr. Espindola reviewed the direction of the Broadband Study Committee (BSC) regarding the formation of the Municipal Light Board. Ms. Ellison suggested the town wait until new Town Counsel has been hired to see what expertise they may have in the area of Municipal Light Plants. Mr. Espindola will meet with current Chair Sean Powers and consultant Entry point to develop a specific set of recommended tasks for the BSC during the interim period.
- Mr. Espindola has been asked to participate in a Broadband Coalition at the state level

- Southeastern Mass. Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) will be meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

Mr. Correy reported:

- The Belonging Committee has met and had a guest speaker to discuss Disability Awareness month and is always looking for ways to engage the community.

Mr. Murphy reported:

- The Sister City Committee will meet next week.
- Lagoa Mayor Cristina Calisto recently visited Fairhaven as part of the kick-off event for the traveling photo display that will be at Town Hall the week of July 25, 2022.

Action

Public Hearing

At 7:04 pm Ms. Powers opened the public hearing for a new beer and wine license application for Southcoast Pickleball, LLC by reading the public hearing notice. Mr. Correy stated that he is an abutter to the property.

Manager Adam Roger said Southcoast Pickleball is looking for the beer and wine license to continue to create the social atmosphere that pickleball has become; and there are no intention to open the business up as a bar. Eventually they would like to serve ice cream and revamp the mini golf course. He expects the pickleball courts to be open within the next few weeks. Abutter Newton Edwards addressed some concerns with the hours of operation and hopes Southcoast Pickleball will be respectful to the neighborhood.

Motion Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the beer and wine license for Southcoast Pickleball, LLC as submitted and in accordance with the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) regulations with the hours of operation being from 9am - 9pm. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0-0)

Ms. Powers closed the public hearing at 7:13 pm.

Zoning Board of Appeals—Associate Member

The Select Board met with 3 candidates for the vacant associate seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Each candidate was asked to tell a little bit about themselves.

- Patrick Carr said he is a business owner in Fairhaven and has been a resident for over 40 years. This is the third time applying for a vacancy on the ZBA and would very much like to serve his community by giving back 110%.
- Maria J. Carvalho told the Select Board her background is in real estate law; she is bilingual and is retired so she has the time to commit to meetings. Ms. Carvalho also serves on the Historical Commission, the Cable Advisory Board and the Lagoa Friendship Committee.
- Denyce Wicht said she is new to Fairhaven and is looking to get involved in the community. She is a chemistry professor and feels her background in analytics can aid the ZBA in their decisions. Because of her work schedule, she is only able to attend the meetings remotely.

Each candidate said they would be willing to take any training opportunities that are available.

The Select Board discussed the qualifications of each candidate.

Motion Mr. Murphy motioned to appoint Patrick Carr as an associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term to end May 31, 2023. Mr. Silvia seconded. Mr. Espindola voted in the opposition. Vote carried. (4-1-0)

Sustainability Committee Reappointment

Resident John Pond told the Select Board he would like to remain an associate member of the Sustainability Committee; however, he does not have a computer and currently the committee meets remotely. Mr. Pond said he has a lot to offer the committee as he used to be involved in the environmental field. Ms. Powers offered for Mr. Pond to attend the meeting at Town Hall and a member of the cable staff will help him with the remote access for each Sustainability meeting while they continue to meet remotely.

Motion Mr. Murphy motioned to appoint John Pond to the Sustainability Committee for a term to end May 31, 2023. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0-0)

Rogers School Request for Proposal results

This has been tabled until a future meeting.

5th annual Pedal for the Path—September 11, 2022

Mr. Espindola recused himself because he is the President of the South Coast Bikeway Alliance. Ms. Powers said the South Coast Bikeway Alliance is planning the fifth annual Pedal for The Path Fundraising ride to be hold on Sunday, September 11, 2022. This year the proposed routes would travel through the center of Fairhaven and along the Phoenix Rail Trail.

Motion Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the Pedal for the Path event to be held on September 11, 2022. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was carried. (4-0-1). Mr. Espindola was an abstained vote due to his recusal.

Mr. Espindola returned to the meeting.

Participation in a Massachusetts Digital Infrastructure Collaborative

Mr. Espindola told the Board he has been asked to join a “Massachusetts Digital Infrastructure Collaborative” and feels this is a good opportunity for Fairhaven. This program offers municipalities the opportunity to share valuable information with each other and would serve as a channel of communication and a unified voice to state leaders with regard to any potential policy initiatives for the Broadband project.

Motion Mr. Murphy motioned to appoint Mr. Espindola as the representative to the Massachusetts Digital Infrastructure Collaborative Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0-0)

Board and Committee by law

Ms. Ellison said the Select Board has been discussing attendance and code of conduct on boards and committees and had some concerns there could be liability issues. She has reached out to other communities for guidance and created a bylaw that would apply to elected and appointed board members. The Select Board discussed their concerns regarding overlap from other policies and who would be the enforcement agent for this policy.

Ann Richard, Chair of the Sustainability has concerns and feels there should be public hearings on this article before it is presented to Town Meeting for the public to have input. Ms. Ellison will send a copy to all Board and Committee chairs for review and schedule a public hearing.

Special Town Meeting date

Ms. Ellison spoke to the Town Clerk and the Town Moderator; both are available for November 15, 2022 for a special town meeting.

Motion Mr. Murphy motioned to set Fairhaven's Special Town Meeting date to be November 15, 2022. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0-0)

Town Counsel appointment

Ms. Ellison interviewed six (6) town counsel firms and is recommending Petrini and Associates as her choice. The Select Board discussed the selection of firms interviewed and would like more time to review all the proposals before deciding. Ms. Ellison will forward all the firm names to the Select Board for review prior to the next Select Board meeting.

Personnel Policy

Ms. Powers and the Select Board thanked Ms. Ellison for her hard work in creating a personnel policy since the current policy is over 20 years old and is outdated.

Motion Mr. Murphy motioned to adopt the personnel policy as outlined. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0-0)

Public Comment

Resident John Pond expressed his concerns with the proposed Municipal Light Plant project. Mr. Espindola addressed his questions.

Board Member Items

Mr. Silvia:

- The Bell Committee brought the bell facade to Town Hall and the group helped come up with the final location; once Mass Historical Commission has been contacted the bell committee can move forward

Mr. Espindola:

- The new bike path extension is beautiful and Mr. Espindola encouraged everyone to take a ride to see how beautiful it is.

- The residents in the sewer treatment plant neighborhood have been complaining to Public Works Superintendent Vinnie Furtado regarding the smell; Mr. Furtado will set up an online complaint form on the town's website.

Mr. Correy:

- Thanked Public Works Superintendent Vinnie Furtado and Sewer Superintendent Rene Robillard for their tour of the sewer treatment plant and found the experience interesting and fascinating.
- Encouraged residents to get involved and join a board or committee.

Mr. Murphy:

- Reminded residents the Lagoa Committee will host the traveling photo display starting on July 25, 2022. The photos will be on display in the Town Hall lobby.

Adjournment

Motion: At 8:42 pm Mr. Murphy motioned to adjourn. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0-0)

Respectfully submitted
On behalf of the Select Board Clerk,



Vicki L. Oliveira
Administrative Assistant
(Approved 8/1/2022)