



Fairhaven Select Board Meeting Minutes September 19, 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., and Town Administrator Angie Lopes Ellison.

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

Ms. Powers opened the meeting at 6:31 pm. Ms. Powers requested a moment of silence in honor of Queen Elizabeth II who passed September 8, 2022.

Minutes

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the open session minutes of September 6, 2022. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0-0)

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the executive session minutes of September 6, 2022. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (5-0-0)

Town Administrator Report

Ms. Ellison updated the Select Board on:

Staffing Update

- We are almost fully staffed, still interviewing for two positions. In the final stage of Building Commissioner interview process. The Insurance Advisory Board will be recreated and will consist of employees, retirees, and a representation from each union. They will be responsible for reviewing and advising on insurance related items such as costs, etc.

Financial Management Review

- The Financial Management Review provided is a draft for review and feedback from the Board. There are a few components that need adjustments. Mr. Espindola would like the Town Administrator to comment line by line on the recommendations when the new report is brought forward.

Fairhaven TV Haunted Halloween Event: October 27, 2022

- The Haunted Halloween Event will be October 27, 2022 from 5pm – 8 pm.

Fairhaven / New Bedford Bridge Replacement Meeting: October 3, 2022, Fairhaven High School

- The first public meeting on the Fairhaven / New Bedford bridge replacement will be held on October 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm at Fairhaven High School. Ms. Ellison is urging the public to participate. The Select Board meeting that was to be held at the Town Hall at the exact time and date will be moved to the bridge replacement meeting so all Board members can attend and speak freely. The information will be shared on the web page and social media.

Other Updates

- There was an incident at the Office of Tourism last week in which a pride banner was turned around. Ms. Ellison is handling the situation and stated the Town of Fairhaven supports diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- There are social media posts regarding rumors of potential issues with 911 calls. Negotiations are being held with the Fire Union, but at no time is the Town of Fairhaven unsafe. We are staffed, there is mutual aid, and there will be service for all calls.
- The Town Auction was a success. Anything that wasn't sold the BPW will hold aside and can be sold at govdeals.com.

Committee Liaison Reports

Mr. Espindola reported:

- Mr. Espindola provided updates on The Fairhaven Bikeway Committee, Broadband Study Committee, and the South Coast Bikeway Alliance (Attachment A).

Mr. Correy reported:

- The Economic Development Committee had a couple of resignations. The new pharmacy came to introduce themselves.
- The Belonging Committee met, it was Cam Durant's first meeting as staff advisor. They will be asking for a gift account to be set up for donations, they will be participating in the upcoming Kid's Fest, and will be also making a statement regarding the incident at the Office of Tourism, they are interested in opening a social media account. Hispanic History Month is September 15, 2022 through October 15, 2022.

Mr. Silvia reported:

- The Historical Commission met at the Academy Building. The Commission got to see the ADA compliance updates that were made. They also used an old stone piece with a hitching post that will be used as parking guard. A request will be coming in front of the Select Board to fly the military flags on their relative 'birthdays'.

Mr. Murphy reported:

- The Sister City Committee met on September 15, 2022 which in Japan is Respect for Elders Day. The teachers program was a success. They are encouraged to tour the museum with their students.
- The Vocational students are involved again in maintenance at the Carriage House.

Appointment to Belonging Committee: Diane Hahn:

Ms. Hahn addressed the Board and told them about herself.

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to appoint Ms. Diane Hahn to the Fairhaven Belonging Committee for a term to end May 2023. Mr. Silvia seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

Change of DBA Amendment: The Pasta House Restaurant to Bocca:

Ms. Powers read the request to change the name of the Pasta House Restaurant to Bocca.

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to change the name of Pasta House Restaurant to Bocca as outlined in the application and in accordance to ABCC regulations. Mr. Silvia seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan:

Fairhaven Select Board –September 19, 2022 Open Session –

Ms. Ellison stated this is an agreement between the Municipality and the Board of Public Works. Back up information provided (Attachment B). Superintendent Vincent Furtado, via Zoom, reiterated Ms. Ellison's information.

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Stormwater Prevention Plan. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

Special Education Stabilization Fund Expenditure:

Superintendent Tara Kohler requested from the Board \$58,000 to be expended from the Special Education Stabilization Fund, Per MGL Section 13 E, due to unexpected increases disclosed during last year's budget process. The School Committee voted on September 14, 2022 to approve the expenditure.

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to expend \$58,000 from the special education stabilization fund as outlined in MGL Section 13 E. Mr. Silvia seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

Broadband Study Committee Mission Statement:

Mr. Espindola presented the Mission State of the Broadband Study Committee, noting the changes he would like made to the charge (Attachment C).

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to accept the new charge for the Broadband Study Committee. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

Board Member Items

Mr. Correy:

- Mr. Correy thanked Representative Straus for the tour of Center School in Mattapoisett. It was nice to see a building similar to the Roger's School functional and preserved. Thanked the Fairhaven Pop Warner for the invitation to go and watch the game.

Mr. Murphy:

- The Logao Committee was featured in the magazine Alprasa, showing the Mayor, Cristina Calisto Decq Mota's visit to Fairhaven and Bristol, Rhode Island.

Mr. Espindola:

- Thanked Mr. Furtado and the former Chair of the Bikeway Committee for their participation in the Safe Route to School discussion.

Notes and Announcements:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Select Board is Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm at Fairhaven High School. The Board will be attending the Fairhaven / New Bedford Bridge Replacement Public Meeting.

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to adjourn. Mr. Silvia seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously. (5-0-0)

Adjourned 7:18 pm

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Select Board Clerk. (SS)
Approved October 17, 2022

Attachments:

- A. Committee Liaison Report**
- B. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Information**
- C. Broadband Study Committee Change to Charge**

Committee Liaison Report – Bob Espindola – September 6th, 2022

The Fairhaven Bikeway Committee The Committee has not met since our last meeting but there was a public hearing held on Thursday night last week relative to the Safe Routes to School Project that is proposed to reconstruct the sidewalks and travel lanes between the bike path crossing Sconticut Neck Road and the Leroy L. Wood Elementary School.

Vinnie Furtado was on the Panel and Town Engineer Michael Carter was present. I pulled the selected slides from the presentation to illustrate what the project is about and the full set of slides can be found on the Mass DOT website at the following link.

The project is budgeted at nearly \$2M, with 80% paid by the Federal Government, 20% by the State and the Town would be responsible for Right of Way issues related to Town Property.

The schedule calls for 75% and 100% design to be completed simultaneously for "Expediting" purposes and for Advertising in October of 2023 and construction in the spring of 2024.

Anyone can comment in writing up to 10 days after the public hearing so that would be up until September 25th and the details on how to do that are included in the slide presentation.

Broadband Study Committee. The Broadband Study Committee has not met since our last Select Board meeting. One development, however, is that the Mass Broadband Institute has finally announced. The BSC has been waiting for this announcement to see if there is an opportunity to expand the scope of the Fairhaven Housing Authority project the Town received the \$250K grant for.

MBI seems to be leaning toward passing the \$50M program funds through the Regional Planning Authorities (RPA's) like SRPEDD. I have reached out to Jeffrey Walker, Executive Director of SRPEDD and he said that he had a meeting scheduled this week and will contact me in the coming weeks to set up a meeting to discuss how the Town of Fairhaven may be able to leverage these funds through SRPEDD. Fairhaven Housing Authority Director Krisanne Sheedy will be included in discussions once the concepts have been framed out.

The Digital Access program outlines the following goals ...

Partners will work with local and regional organizations to implement digital equity projects in six program areas:

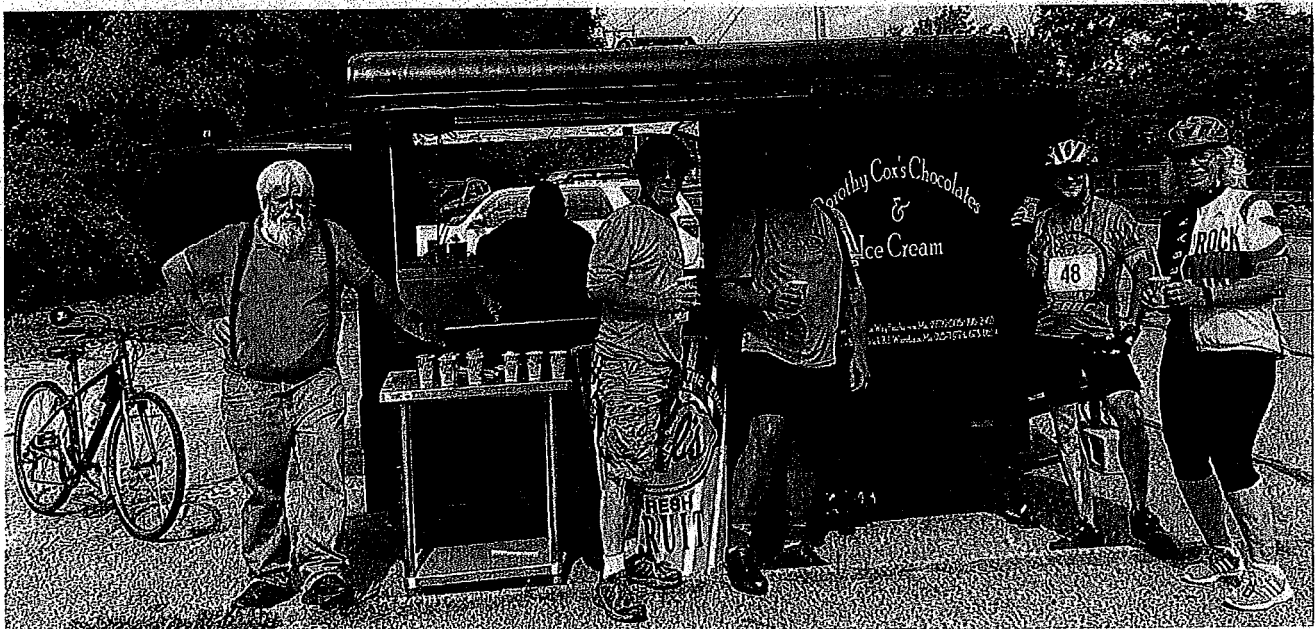
1. WiFi Access Initiative
2. Public Space Internet Modernization Initiative
3. Connectivity Initiative for Economic Hardship
4. Digital Literacy Initiative
5. Device Distribution and Refurbishment Program
6. Education, Outreach and Adoption

<https://broadband.masstech.org/digital-equity-programs>

Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) SRPEDD traditionally holds no meeting in the month of August.

Southeastern Mass. Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO). The meeting scheduled for September 20th has been cancelled.

The South Coast Bikeway Alliance Pedal for the Path fund raiser held on Sunday, September 11th, was very successful with 137 riders participating. All of them passed through Fairhaven where they were treated to a free Lemonade right at the bike path by Dorothy Cox's who set up along the bike path which was very appreciated by all the riders on a hot day.



Back in 2018, the Selectboard and BPW jointly entered signed a permit with the EPA agreeing to conduct stormwater control.

In any Municipality, sewage and drainage are either contained (conveyed) in the same pipe or in two separate pipes. In those municipalities (Fairhaven is one) where sewage is carried in a separate system than drainage (rain water), the EPA requires this community to have a permit granting stipulated permission for the drainage discharge. The EPA calls this permit MS4 which stands for municipal separate storm sewer system. Some of the items we have to conduct as part of our permit are...

- The Town is required to continue (we have been doing this since 2003) with public education and outreach and have to target our audience to ensure that residents and businesses are aware to not throw various materials down the storm drain.
- The Town has to map its entire drainage system and collect samples at all of its outfalls. Depending on the results revealed from these collected samples, the Town will be required to investigate high bacteria counts and remove them from the system.
- The Town is required to conduct annual stormwater training and create various SOP's to ensure permit compliance.
- The Town must require and issue a stormwater permit to any contractor conducting construction in Town and enforce the recent bylaw that was created for this purpose should the contractor fail to comply with stormwater cleanup.
- The Town has to create a stormwater pollution prevention plan for all of its municipal owned buildings.

Fairhaven Broadband Study Committee Mission

The mission of the Fairhaven Broadband Study Committee Mission is to provide continuity between past committee work and the Municipal Light Plant Board which will be formed at a future date. This will include initiatives to advance the planning and evaluation for a potential deployment of an open access fiber network which is owned by the residents of Fairhaven.

BSC Working List - Things to consider completing prior to Transition of BSC to MLP

1. What needs to be done before Town Meeting in the Fall?
2. Coordination with Mass Broadband Institute regarding grant opportunities
3. Execution of the Community Compact Cabinet Grant project
4. Updates of the Broadband Master Plan
5. What to do about the website and future management thereof
6. Community Engagement
7. Write an RFP for Open Access Partner
8. RFP for full build out. (TBD)