

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
February 27, 2023**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Travis Rapoza, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent
Joseph Ingoldsby
Gary Lavalette



I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. N/A

IV. Appointments

5:15 Joseph Ingoldsby, Cooke Park

Mr. Furtado - In the past with our support letter Mr. Ingoldsby received a grant to beautify Cooke Park. I believe he is on the agenda tonight to request another letter of support.

Mr. Lavalette - Last year Mr. Ingoldsby planted a bunch of annuals and then when he was done planting them the annuals became my issue. I watered them faithfully once a week. In my opinion, I think that it would be easier to maintain perennials and they would come back every year. I do not mind watering for 15 minutes a day but we need to put the correct plants there because we are losing them because the soil is very dry.

Mr. Hobson - What are the locations?

Mr. Lavalette – There are two locations that we planted flowers. The first location is the rain gardens and the other location is by the memorial bench.

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Mr. Rapoza - Is it Mr. Ingoldsby's intention to apply for another grant?

Mr. Wotton – Yes, I believe he is looking to put a couple of hundred dollars' worth of plants in the basin.

Mr. Lavalette – I know that the past agreement was to plant things that does not become a burden on the Town.

Mr. Furtado - With the Boards permission I will write another letter of support like the one we have written in the past.

Mr. Rapoza motioned to allow support Mr. Furtado to write the letter of support for the beautification of Cooke Park. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Ingoldsby – I recall a few years ago that you were going to install a waterline with a spigot at Cooke Park.

Mr. Lavalette - I just want to reaffirm to the Board that I was there faithfully every weekend and there is no need to run a water line across the street. If you have a 100 foot hose that works just fine.

Mr. Ingoldsby – The New Bedford Garden Club will be responsible for maintaining the gardens this year. I would like to involve the neighbors more. In the past, they donated money for plantings and they have been very generous but this is a community park and I think the community should get involved.

V. Item for Action

A. Tree Vote Cooke Park

Mr. Furtado - The Tree Warden is seeking the Boards consent to take down a few trees in Cooke Park on Howland Road.

Mr. Lavalette - I have looked at both of these trees and they are both rotted. They will be taken down and replace with new trees.

Mr. Ferro - If new trees are going to be replanted that makes it more palatable.

Mr. Lavalette – If anyone has any questions I will be happy to meet them there.

Mr. Wotton motioned to remove the two dangerous trees at Cooke Park on Howland Road and replace them with two new trees in the spring. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Sewer Superintendent Vacation 5 days carryover

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Mr. Ferro motioned to approve Mr. Robillard's request to carryover 5 Vacation Days. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Update on Recycling Center

Mr. Furtado - The Highway Department has been cleaning up the backyard because it may have to be the temporary if not permanent location of the recycle center in the near future.

Mr. Hobson – I would like to meet with Mr. Crabb and see what has already been done and what his plans are.

Mr. Crabb reviewed the modified Recycle Center and BPW Yard layout with the Board and answered any questions that the Board had.

Mr. Hobson - There are two ways to look at it. If you do not give the residents a place to dispose of the items then you will be picking it up on the side of the road.

Mr. Crabb - I think the recycle center policy needs to be revised in the near future. Commercial is the biggest problem.

Ms. Smith - Can we see if anything can be done with neighboring Towns?

Mr. Crabb – Mattapoissett is at capacity.

Mr. Wotton - This is the right way to go and we need to figure out how the materials will be processed. To clean out we will have to close the site down so there is no liability.

Mr. Furtado - Instead of buying a garbage truck this year we could purchase a tub grinder.

Mr. Crabb – I think that we should look at modifying the items that are collected. I would like to try to have this new site running by spring.

Ms. Smith – Do we have to offer recycle containers at the Recycle Center?

Mr. Furtado - Since we provide curbside recycle pickup we do not have to provide bins at the Recycle Center.

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Mr. Wotton - I would like to reach out to a couple people I know in the industry and see if they are interested in taking some of the items off of our hands.

D. Tighe and Bond – WWTP Construction Phase addendum

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over this tonight as it is pending Town Counsel’s approval.

E. Tighe and Bond – WWTP Geotechnical Selection

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over this as well as it is pending Town Counsel’s approval as well.

F. Articles and Roadwork Selection

Discussion ensued amongst all present regarding the FY24 Articles and the Selection of Streets.

Mr. Rapoza motioned to approve all the FY24 Articles and the one FY23 Article that were presented. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Hathaway Street and Alpine Avenue for FY24 Roadwork. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matter

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

Mr. Lavalette - The Board gave permission to do an archeological study at Cooke Park and nothing was found during those digs. Right now, there are no bodies at Cooke Park and I am hoping the Board will open this back up as a Park.

Mr. Furtado - I think the Board should wait until we receive the official report from Massachusetts Historical Commission.

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for February 27, 2023

- Complete and deliver MV FY 24 assessments

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- Debris at Civil War Park picked up
- Josh is estimating paving cost of Little Bay
- Potholes in Fir St attended to
- Ruts in Cushman will be attended to in spring
- Meet with Brian and Josh - new recycling center
- Meet with attorney re: water class action suit
- Chapter 90 funding approved for additional work on storm water \$300k grant work on Jerusalem Rd - bidding will be shortly
- Meet with Unibank rep re: borrowing for water plant upgrade
- Work on 2023 brokerage agreement
- Rene and I meet with engineer re upgrade process selection and final design
- Attend Dept. Head meeting - budget and Articles update
- Josh and I meet with engineer re update to Causeway bridge repair which will be presented to Board at a future meeting
- Meet with Union attorneys re Flushing
- Attend and Chair monthly MRV
- Work with Town Consultant re required steps to actually obtain ARPA funding from County

Mr. Furtado answered any question the Board had regarding the Superintendent Report.

B. Board Members

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW related Matters

Mr. Hobson - The Marine Resource Committee is meeting on Thursday so I will have an update at the next meeting

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date for the next meeting on March 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Motion was not seconded. Motioned does not pass.

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Ms. Smith motioned to set the date for the next meeting on March 13, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote 3-1 with Mr. Hobson opposed.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Rapoza motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on March 13, 2023