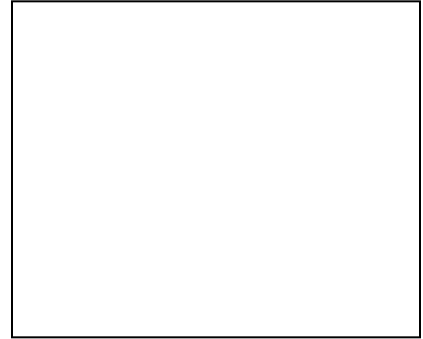


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 24, 2023**



Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Sam Dungca, Soul Flower Yoga & Wellness
Alexis Costa, Soul Flower Yoga & Wellness
Karen Vilandry, Hands Across the River Coalition
Ann Richard, Chair of Sustainability
Sara Santos, Bloom and Blossom
Doug Brady, Pleasant Street

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. April 10, 2023

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of April 10, 2023. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote 4-1 with Mr. Rapoza abstaining.

IV. Appointments

5:30 Soul Flower Yoga & Wellness Community Gardens Cushman Park

Ms. Dungca - We are here tonight because we are looking to put a community garden at Cushman Park and unveil it at the Full Bloom Festival this year. We received a grant from the United Way to help with this project.

Mr. Wotton- Do you have a specific place in Cushman Park that you were looking to place the garden?

Ms. Santos –We are proposing three raised garden beds in the area behind the tennis courts that abuts the properties on the Main Street side. We are thinking this would be a good location because we are trying to promote use. This is not the type of community gardens where people come and rent plots.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 24, 2023**

This is a community garden that the residents can come and pick from. We do have residents that live in the center of Town that are going to help with design, maintenance and watering.

Ms. Smith - What are the dimensions of the garden?

Ms. Santos - We are proposing a garden approximately 8 x 12.

Ms. Dungca - We are looking for a U-shape garden that would have a gate so you could get to the inside of the garden.

Ms. Santos – We would have educational tags for each item that is planted there. We are looking to put in three beds one for herbs, one for vegetables and one for cut flowers. Is there any way that we could get some compost?

Mr. Crabb - We do not have any compost at this time.

Mr. Wotton – I am in favor of this but I do ask you to meet with either Mr. Furtado or Mr. Crabb to get approval of the location.

Ms. Smith - Where is the water going to come from?

Ms. Santos – For the time being we will be bringing in the water. Depending on how much we can get donated and how much of the grant money we can utilize we would eventually like to put in a rain basin so we can pull the water from there.

Ms. Smith – Can you explain how this will work over time? What if someone were to come and take all the vegetables or flowers that were planted?

Ms. Santos - We would like to plant items that regenerate. I do want to plant items in the gardens that would be constantly growing. If an item does not work there then we would remove it and replant something else.

Ms. Costa - We are hoping that the garden brings the community together.

Mr. Wotton - It sounds like this is going to be more trial and error and the worst case if it doesn't work out then we have to remove the structure.

Mr. Rapoza - I like the idea behind this. The question that I have is how do we make this more about the community? I think that if we could have a set time to bring people together than that would bring out

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 24, 2023**

more of the community. I am wondering if we could find a time to harvest the vegetables. Then people could come to the site during that time and you could hand out the items that were harvested or you could deliver them to the people in the community that would benefit from it the most. On the other hand, you could also do something educational where you could teach kids to harvest the vegetables. I think that would create a sense of community.

Ms. Dungca – I do like that idea of having a group gather to learn and harvest.

Ms. Santos- We are hoping that this gives enough to help the people in need. Also, we are hoping that this will show people that they could make these beds and grow their own vegetables in their own yards.

Mr. Lopes - I like the envision and the education aspect of the gardens. Maybe you could get students to volunteer.

Ms. Santos - We would like to see how this goes this year and if it goes well then next year we can get the high school or middle school involved in the project.

Ms. Richard – I am the chair of the Sustainability Committee. I also help with the three community gardens that we have at the schools. I would like you to meet with the community garden subcommittee before you start your project so they can maybe help since they have been doing this for a while and it sounds like what you are trying to do.

Ms. Santos – That sounds great, I have some questions for them.

Ms. Vilandry - I am the President of the Hands Across the River Coalition and we deal with a lot of contaminated sites. I have a personal experience where I dug a 11 foot square by 9 inches deep in my yard and brought in what was supposed to be good quality soil, then planted organic seeds and then ate from it from summer into the fall. I then went to my doctor and found that my lead levels were high due to contaminated soil. A consultant from the EPA told me that I has to remember one thing anything that comes in a bag is not regulated. He mentioned that they can put toxic sludge in a bag and sell it as potting soil or gardening mix. It is important to have your soil tested so you know that you have the right product to grow healthy vegetables.

Ms. Smith motioned to allow Soul flower Yoga & Wellness to utilize their grant funds to make their community garden at Cushman Park pending the approval of the location and meeting with the subcommittee of the community gardens at the schools. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 24, 2023**

5:45 Karen Vilandry, Hands Across the River Coalition, Presentation of Archeological Survey at Cooke Memorial Park

Ms. Vilandry read a letter addressed to Board of Public Works from the Hands Across the River Coalition regarding the archeological survey at Cooke Memorial Park / Oxford Village Burial Hill.

Mr. Furtado – Hands Across the River Coalition hired a company in 2017 and they did the ground penetrating radar and the results that yielded from the survey indicated that voids were found and that Cooke Park could have been a burial site. A few years went by and Ms. Vilandry was fortunate enough to receive a grant to hire a company and confirm or add on to what was suspected from the 2017 study. They hired a company who is familiar with this type of work and as you can read from the executive summary, they believe that people were buried there and that is their professional opinion.

Ms. Vilandry – Both companies concur that this is a burial site.

Mr. Furtado - In my opinion, I think that the Board should digest the report and then in the future we could have a joint meeting with the Historical Committee. I think that this is only right.

Mr. Rapoza – Did the other committees receive this report as well?

Ms. Vilandry – No, the report was only delivered to the BPW. The report is being sent by PAL (Public Archaeology Laboratory) to the Mass Historical Committee and we just wanted to give you more proof. We just need the Board to acknowledge that Cooke Memorial Park is a Historical burial site.

Mr. Brady - Remember the point of this dig was not to dig up the bodies it was to prove the history of it. If we designate Cooke Park as a cemetery, there would be long-term protection.

Mr. Rapoza motioned to table the Presentation of the Archeological Survey at Cooke Memorial Park to a future meeting with the Historical Committee. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

6:00 Ann Richard, Plastic Nip Bottle Ban

Ms. Richard – At Town Meeting the Sustainability Committee is looking to amend Article 22. A lot of Towns/cities are banning plastic nip bottles. During a one-day beach cleanup, we collected 550 bottles. I am here tonight looking to see how the Board feels on banning any size bottle 100ml or less. We are looking to implement this because nip bottles cannot be recycled and they get thrown on the side of the road and then caught in storm drains.

Mr. Hobson - I think if they ban them, then people will just buy ½ pints instead of nip bottles. I am not saying I am for this or against it.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 24, 2023**

Mr. Wotton - Banning something is not going to make it go away. We will just be picking them up elsewhere. The only way to help this issue is the bottle bill, which would basically add five cents like on the cans. If each bottle were worth five cents then people would be picking them up instead of discarding them on the side of the roads.

Mr. Crabb- it is a big strain on the system. It clogs the vac truck and sweeper. It would be advantageous of us to try to help reduce the waste.

Mr. Rapoza – I have several points to talk about and I hope you will consider them all. I do not know if you will be getting up at Town Meeting to speak about this, if you do, I hope you will consider what I am going to say. Generally speaking I am in favor of this and I think that it is a good idea. I have done a fair amount of research on this and I have found that calls for EMS service have declined year after year. I do think this is a positive for public safety but I do not know all the details I just know the calls decrease. As of right now, I spend a lot of my time working in the nonprofit world with substance use disorder and I am pretty familiar with people who have alcohol use disorder. These people are at a high risk when they are trying to remove themselves from alcohol and because nips are cheap, this is sometimes used to maintain the amount of alcohol in their bodies so they do not have seizures or life threatening medical conditions due to detoxing. I believe there are good things to come from the ban on the public safety side but I do believe there is a public health angle here as well. I hope that you will consider finding resources and services for people who may be adversely affected from this if the ban does pass.

V. Reorganization of Members

A. Chairman

Ms. Smith nominated Mr. Wotton as Chairman. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

A. Vice-Chairman

Mr. Lopes nominated Mr. Hobson as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Clerk

Mr. Rapoza nominated Ms. Smith as clerk. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Item for Action

A. Sign Engineering Agreement, GCG Associates – 240 Alden Road \$2,350.00

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign the Engineering Agreement with GCG Associates for 240 Alden Road in the amount of \$2,350.00. Mr. Rapoza seconded. Vote unanimous.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 24, 2023**

B. Tata & Howard, Unidirectional Flushing Bidding Documents, Payment #1 \$13,775.00

Mr. Rapoza motioned to approve Tata & Howard Payment #1 in the amount of \$13,775.00 for Unidirectional Flushing Bidding Documents. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Denis L. Maher Company, Cleaning & Redevelopment of Municipal Gravel Packed Well, Change Order #1 \$6,879.20

Mr. Rapoza motioned to approve Denis L. Maher Company Change Order #1 in the amount of \$6,879.20 for Cleaning & Redevelopment of Municipal Gravel Packed Well. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society, Cooke Memorial Park, Cherry Blossom Festival May 7, 2023

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over this because the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society canceled their Cherry Blossom Festival this year.

E. Beta Group, Pavement Management Agreement \$52,700.00

Mr. Rapoza motioned to Sign the Pavement Management Agreement with Beta Group in the amount of \$52,700.00. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. Buzzards Bay Coalition, Grant of Conservation Restriction, Red Brick Farm South, Acushnet Road, Mattapoisett

Mr. Furtado – We are going to pass over this tonight.

G. Award 2023 Roadway Rehabilitation & Related Work

Mr. Furtado - We are looking to Award the 2023 Roadway Rehabilitation & Related Work to Rochester Bituminous, which was the lowest bidder.

Mr. Rapoza motioned to Award 2023 Roadway Rehabilitation & Related Work to Rochester Bituminous in the amount of \$464,961.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

H. Award 2023 Sidewalk Restoration & Related Work

Mr. Furtado - We are looking to Award 2023 Sidewalk Restoration & Related Work to Century Paving, which was the lowest bidder.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 24, 2023**

Mr. Hobson motioned to Award 2023 Sidewalk Restoration & Related Work to Century Paving in the amount of \$70,500.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. Tata & Howard, Authority to File, Lead Service Line Inventory

Mr. Furtado – The EPA is requiring all municipalities to do a lead service inventory. The first step of this is to hire someone and then they inventory all the lead services that we have in Town. The state is accepting application for reimbursement for this project. I am not sure how much we will get back but we are looking for the Board to sign the application so Tata & Howard can submit the application.

Mr. Rapoza motioned to allow Tata and Howard the Authority to File the application for Lead Service Line Inventory. Mr. Lope seconded. Vote unanimous.

VII. Tabled Matter

A. n/a

VIII. Public Comments / Open Forum

IX. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for April 24, 2023

- Josh and I meet with CZM re: potential grant opportunities
- Attend Dept. Head Meeting
- Chair Monthly MRV meeting
- Attend Selectman/Fincom meeting with other management staff
- SRF Borrowing
- 148 Dogwood BOH
- Peer Review of POTW upgrade
- Jeff and I attend MRV Quarterly flow meeting for raw water costs

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 24, 2023**

- Josh and I meet with High School student re civic project
- MMA contract for FY 24
- Brokerage agreement to EL Harvey
- Insurance indemnification POTW upgrade
- ROW appraiser - State Project
- BBC - Conservation Restriction
- Meet with Town Counsel and TA re West island tie-ins
- Bid opening for Bridge Repair
- Bid opening for Jerusalem Rd Stormwater Project
- Brian and I meet with Tighe and Bond
- Jeff and I meet with Hydratech - flushing logistics

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Wotton - Would you please send an email to the Town Attorney, Town Administrator and Select Board to notify them that they do not have the authority to approve sewer tie-ins on West Island.

Mr. Hobson - When are they going to start Littleneck Road?

Mr. Crabb - We are waiting for Conservation's approval. Hopefully mid to late summer.

Mr. Hobson –The Highway Department did a nice job cleaning up the Animal Shelter.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW related Matters

Mr. Hobson – We have not met since our last meeting.

X. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Rapoza motioned to set the date for the next meeting on May 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

XI. Adjourn

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
April 24, 2023**

Mr. Rapoza motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. and enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue and not to reconvene in open session. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Rapoza and Mr. Lopes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on May 8, 2023