

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
May 6, 2024**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent
David Wojnar, Acushnet Selectman
Sharon Simmons
Christina Lopes



I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. April 8, 2024 – Executive Session A

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes from April 8, 2024 – Executive Session A. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. April 22, 2024

Ms. Smith – Under the Board Member section (page 5) there is a minor change. My intension was to ask if they were going to paint a mural on the container at Livesey Park and we talked about it and I think it end with them just saying they were painting it the color of the restroom facility.

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes from April 22, 2024 as amended. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. April 22, 2024 – Executive Session A

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes from April 22, 2024 – Executive Session A. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

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IV. Appointments

A. David Wojnar, Acushnet Selectmen – WI Town Beach / Acushnet River Valley Golf Course Town

Mr. Wojnar - Thank you for having me, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Board.

Mr. Wotton - Mr. Wojnar and I spoke briefly a couple of weeks ago about the possibility of coming up with a Memorandum of Understanding regarding Acushnet residents being able to use the West Island Beach at the Fairhaven resident price of \$40 and Fairhaven residents being able to use the Acushnet River Valley Golf Course at the Acushnet resident price.

Mr. Wojnar – This is something that has been talked about for many years and for some reason really never got off the ground. I recently participated from the town side, in a meeting with your Town Administrator and members of the Select Board. We discussed how Acushnet and Fairhaven might be able to work collaboratively on government related items, whether it be conservation or other things that we might be able to combine services on. One thing that I have heard from our residents and Fairhaven residents over the years is the possibility in utilizing the Town Beach and the Golf Course. After speaking with Mr. Wotton, we thought that we could do a pilot program and test it out for a year and see how it works.

Mr. Wotton - I spoke with Mr. Durant in the HR Department and I am aware of the discussions that are happening about some intermunicipal agreements as far as agents. The BPW has sole jurisdiction over the Town Beach that is why we are having this discussion tonight. It sounds like a good deal for both communities.

Mr. Wojnar – It would be a first come first serve availability for both things. We are looking at this being the first step of many more opportunities.

Mr. Hobson - How many West Island permits are you looking for?

Mr. Wojnar – It is hard to gauge and I am not sure how many Acushnet residents would utilize the beach. We could limit the number. As far as the golf course it would be based on tee time availability. I am open to anything to make it work.

Mr. Hobson – I just want to clarify that the permit would be per vehicle and it needs to be attached to the vehicle. I am for this but I think we need to put a limit on the number of permits.

Ms. Rotondo - We cap the non-resident permits at 100. Last year we sold 98 permits and of those 98 permits 27 of those were sold to Acushnet Residents.

Mr. Furtado – That number could certainly be higher because non-resident permits are a lot more money.

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Ms. Smith – You really cannot compare access to a golf course versus a beach. With a golf course you get a tee time so I imagine that you can sign up ahead of time where the beach there is no way to sign up and reserve a time.

Mr. Wojnar – Yes.

Ms. Smith – But at the beach there is no way to sign up. I am quite concerned that Fairhaven residents who pay taxes and pay other fees to support the Town of Fairhaven if they were to show up and not be able to get into the beach because we sold more permits to out of town residents.

Mr. Wotton - In my recollection there has only been a few times where the beach has been at maximum capacity, and that was in August.

Ms. Rotondo – Weekends are definitely crazier than during the week. I have not been turned away in a while. It was before COVID but I think that was because we were allowing day passes.

Mr. Wojnar – I can see your point of view to make sure that your residents are serviced. If you want to cap it to a certain of permits, I am good with that.

Mr. Furtado - The only concern I have is we have already started to sell permits and we have sold 9 of them to Acushnet residents. We would have to see if there is a way to reimburse the residents who have already purchased their permits.

Mr. Wojnar - I appreciate you thinking about that and we can look into it.

Ms. Smith – As a member of the Select Board have residents been coming to you asking for this? The letter says you are looking for access to Fairhaven beaches. I know Fort Phoenix, Seaview Avenue and Pope Beach are all free beaches that anyone can use.

Mr. Wojnar – Pardon my phraseology if the only beach you pay for is West Island. I wasn't aware what was offered free to your residents or what they had to pay for.

Mr. Hobson - I am ok with trying it out for a year with 50 permits for Acushnet residents.

Mr. Wotton -The beach is something that I pay taxes for and do not utilize. I think I would utilize the golf course more since my kids like to play golf. I do not think that we are going to have 200 people buying permits.

Ms. Rotondo – They would be buying them for \$40 as opposed to \$150.00.

Ms. Smith How many permits did we sell last year to Acushnet residents?

Mr. Wotton – 27

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Mr. Wojnar – Last year the number of Fairhaven residents that played golf at Acushnet River Valley was over 100 probably closer to 200. The golf course is not a one time deal it is every time someone walks through the door.

Mr. Wotton – If all 100 Acushnet permits show up at the beach at the same time then there might be an issue but I cannot see that happening.

Ms. Rotondo – My only hesitation is there is nowhere else to park if you cannot get into the parking lot.

Mr. Wotton – We do have the designated overflow parking on Fir Street.

Mr. Hobson – I think we should only sell 50 permits to Acushnet residents.

Mr. Wotton - I think that 100 permits is a good thing to bring both Towns together and it will generate more revenue to the Town. I think that the beach permits are a fair trade for being able to utilize their golf course.

Ms. Rotondo – Are we still going to offer 100 general non-resident permits?

Mr. Wotton – We can discuss limiting the number of general non-resident permits. If we are going to offer 100 permits to Acushnet residents we could reduce the non-residents to 50.

Mr. Lopes - I feel like that Acushnet and Fairhaven are interconnected if you lay out all of the areas we overlap. I think that if we are going to have this for a year and then revisit it I do not see the issue with 100 permits and see how that goes.

Ms. Smith - As long as we are going to put in the motion that we are reducing the number of non-resident passes that we are selling.

Mr. Wotton motioned to allow Acushnet residents up to 100 permits for the West Island Town Beach at the resident price of \$40 in exchange for access to the Acushnet River Valley Golf Course at the Acushnet resident price and to revisit this for the 2025 season. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote 4-1 with Mr. Hobson opposed.

B. Sharon Simmons, Litter Buckets

Mr. Wotton – Ms. Simmons and Mr. Silvia reached out about installing some pressure treated posts with a couple of 2-gallon buckets on the post that could be brought down on a daily basis with the trailer.

Ms. Simmons – I am willing to volunteer and do the work for this project and with your permission I would see if we could get volunteers and donations to make this work. I would also just need your blessing on where these could be installed. There has been some input of ideas on the post on Facebook, someone mentioned to use small grocery basket so there are holes on the bottom, I also

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thought about drilling holes in the buckets so they would not collect with water when it rains and also someone mentioned about using heavy duty clips so they do not break easily. Since we are in a 2-million-dollar deficit my mission is to get this done with no cost to the Town. There are so many people that want to help. We will need a trash can next to the buckets so people can empty the buckets. I was thinking there are three places that we could put them at the beach. The first place would be if you pull into the parking lot there is a path straight ahead, another one at the end of the Boardwalk, and the last one could go by the trash can. I was also thinking that we could try a few on the bike path and three of them at Fort Phoenix, one near the cannons and two near the beach.

Ms. Smith – My only concern is the wind.

Ms. Simmons – That’s where the clips would come into play.

Ms. Rotondo – I also think that they need to be a bright color so we can see if they are not put back.

Mr. Hobson – Where are you going to get the buckets?

Ms. Simmons – My mission is to get everything donated.

Mr. Hobson – The scallop industry sells rings and clips for the drags and there is a fellow that sells them on the Acushnet Freetown line. They have 5-gallon buckets and they have half buckets that are red.

Ms. Smith - In my experience going to West Island there is not a lot of trash in the summer, I feel it is worse in the winter time. I am not sure if its parents making sure the kids pick up or if it’s the employees. I am wondering if some of the other beaches down Sconticut Neck would benefit from this as well.

Ms. Simmons - I am ok with them going wherever the Board thinks is the best place to have them.

Ms. Smith - I think these other places would be good as long as there are trash cans to empty them into.

Mr. Crabb - I am for this, the only thing that I am concerned with is the upkeep and maintenance of the posts and buckets.

Mr. Wotton - I think the Board is in favor of your idea. Once we get all the material and logistics we can get these installed. We will also have to get approval from the conservation agent.

Ms. Lopes – There has been a few other places that have done something similar to this but instead of installing them in the ground they cement the posts in a bucket.

Mr. Wotton - We will take care of the logistics and you can take care of getting all of the items donated.

V. Item for Action

A. Recycle Center – Tire Fees

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Mr. Crabb – I am looking to have the Board increase the fee that we charge at the recycle center to dispose of car tires from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per tire. We just had the disposal company come to pick up the tires and they charged us over \$4.00 per tire. Also, DEP came in and we have to get a container to store the tires in.

Mr. Lopes motioned to increase the tire fees at the recycle center to \$5.00 per car tire effective immediately. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Jerusalem Road, Stormwater Retrofits Project – Speakman Excavating
1. Sign Contract Agreement \$276,820.00**

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign Contract Agreement with Speakman Excavating for Jerusalem Road Retrofits Project in the amount of \$276,820.00. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. Sign Notice to Proceed

Mr. Hobson motioned to Sign the Notice to Proceed with Speakman Excavating for Jerusalem Road Retrofits Project. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Livesey Park Skatepark Project – Speakman Excavating
1. Sign Contract Agreement \$183,350.00**

Mr. Lopes motioned to Sign Contract Agreement with Speakman Excavating for Livesey Park Skatepark Project in the amount of \$183,350.00. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

2. Sign Notice to Proceed

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign the Notice to Proceed with Speakman Excavating for Livesey Park Skatepark Project. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**D. Sign Engineering Agreement, Tata & Howard, Unidirectional Flush Plan Update
\$41,300.00**

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign Contract Engineering Agreement with Tata & Howard for Unidirectional Flushing Plan Update in the amount of \$41,300.00. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

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**E. Stantec Consulting Services Inc., Town Wide Sewer System Force Main
Condition Assessment, Amendment #3 \$325,500.00**

Mr. Lopes motioned to Sign Amendment #3 with Stantec Consulting Services in the amount of \$325,500.0 for Town Wide Force Main Condition Assessment. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**F. Buzzards Bay Coalition, 2024 Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride, Sunday,
October 6, 2024**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Buzzards Bay Coalition 2024 Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride on Sunday, October 6, 2024 along with 4-6 18" x 24" signs to be placed on the bike path for the month of September. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**G. Temporary Street Closure / Block Party, Cottage Street from Green Street to
Laurel Street, June 15, 2024**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Temporary Street Closure / Block Party on Cottage Street from Green Street to Laurel Street on June 15, 2024 from 3 – 7pm. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous

H. Appoint BPW Representative to Marine Resources Committee

Mr. Hobson volunteered for the Marine Resources Committee.

Ms. Smith motioned to appoint Mr. Hobson as the BPW Representative to Marine Resources Committee. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Table Matters

A. n/a

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

Mr. Messier – I have a question, I recently contacted a contractor to have sidewalk installed in front of my property. I am looking to see if there are any resources, loans or grants that someone could point me to.

Mr. Crabb- Is this a new project? I would be happy to connect with you to see if this is something that might be impacted by the gas company or see if we can help you out.

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

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Superintendent Report for May 6, 2024

- Attend BBAC meeting
- Create/film presentations for Town Meeting
- Attend numerous pre-Town meeting meetings
- Attend precinct meeting
- Union issues - multiple departments - meet with various business agents
- Reposting of SMEO position
- Attend grant meeting
- Planned shutdown of West Island water main overnight May 7 - 8
- Water Treatment Plant borrowing
- Farmfield Water Meter installation completed
- Town Meeting
- BBNEP Grant Extension
- Force Main Engineering Contract Amendment
- Internal Management Staff Meeting
- Preconstruction Meeting re Skatepark and Jerusalem Rd BMP

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

B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson - I would like to have a moment of silence for Frank Rezendes who was a member on this Board for quite a long time. Also, when will you be getting to Whisper Lane and Tecumseh Avenue?

Mr. Crabb - It is on our list.

Ms. Smith - What is happening on Little Bay?

Mr. Crabb – I put a barrier there because the rocks have finally let go and collapsed. It is now a safety issue, I am not sure what is going to happen there and it might be costly to fix.

Ms. Smith – When will we be weed whacking Cooke Park? It is overgrown.

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Mr. Crabb - I will send them there tomorrow.

Mr. Lopes – I just want to thank True Bounce, Erik Britto and Wayne Newton for the great job with the 3 on 3 courts at Cushman Park.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson – We are waiting for the state to deliver the docks for Seaview Avenue.

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Relate Matters

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Lopes motioned to set the date for the next meeting on May 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motion to adjourn the meeting and enter into executive session at 7:14 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Highway Personnel). Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Ms. Rotondo in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on May 20, 2024