

Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

Belonging Committee



Date, Time, and Location:

June 12, 2024, 6:30 PM

Remote Only via ZOOM: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 892 1866 8394;

Passcode: 686316

Video Recording Available on Fairhaven TV: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11047703>

Meeting Overview:

1. **Call to order** and review of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law and updated Zoom requirements
2. **Welcome to New Members:** We welcome Kelly Ochoa to the committee and Andrew Romano as our Select Board Representative.
3. **Committee Vacancy:** The committee currently has one open position. If you know of any interested residents, direct them to the Board and Committee Volunteer Application (<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/select-board/webforms/board-and-committee-volunteer-application>)

4. **Quorum/Attendance**

In attendance:

Members: Laura Barillaro; Jessica Fidalgo, Chair; Alliea E. Group, Clerk; Rachel Medeiros; Greg Weider, Vice Chair.

Ex Officio: Cameron Durant, Staff Liaison; Andrew Romano, Select Board Representative

Absent:

Members: Kelly Ochoa

Ex Officio: Det. Jerome Penha, Jr., Police Department Rep.

Vacant Ex Officio Positions: Fire Department Representative; School Department Representative.

5. **Approval of prior minutes:** *A motion was made by Rachel Medeiros and seconded by Greg Weider to approve the minutes from April 2024. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed.*
6. **Reorganization of Committee:** *A motion was made by Rachel Medeiros and seconded by Alliea Group to postpone this agenda item until our next meeting. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed.*

New Business

7. **Fairhaven's Got Pride:** The event was held on Sunday, June 11th was primarily organized by the Office of Tourism and sponsored by the Belonging Committee. At this event, we joined attendees from across the South Coast to enjoy the celebration along with live entertainment, food trucks, vendors, and social service agencies. Committee members shared stories of the importance of standing in solidarity with the LGBTQI+ community and providing a safe and joyous space to celebrate all.

8. **Independence Day Parade:** A motion was made by Alliea Group and seconded by Laura Barillaro to participate in the parade. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed. If you are able to join the celebration, please let Jessica Fidalgo know prior to the event.
9. **Diversability Celebration:** The event will be held on Sunday, July 28th from 11-3 PM at the COA/Recreation Center (299 Huttleston Ave.), sponsored by the Commission on Disability, the Belonging Committee, and M.O.L.I.F.E., Inc.
10. **Recreation Center Summer Lunch Program:** Free lunches will be offered for kids every Wednesday and Friday from 11 AM-1 PM at Livesey Park (25 Morgan St.) near the Glendale Road Ave. side of the park from June 28-August 23rd. This program is sponsored by the Fairhaven Recreation Department, Project Bread, and the USDA Summer Food Service Program to help kids and teens gain access to nutritious meals throughout the summer. No registration is required, open to all under 19 years old. The program is seeking businesses and organizations who are willing to provide activities to enhance the program.

Old Business

11. Items Not Previously Anticipated/ Board Member Comments:

- a. **Recreation Center 1st Annual Fishing Derby:** All are welcome to attend this free event which will be held on Friday, June 21st from 2-5 PM at Hoppy's Landing (69 Goulart Memorial Drive) with support from the Massachusetts Department of Outdoor Recreation. All skill levels and ages are welcome and adaptive equipment will be available. To register for the event, please contact the Recreation Center at (508) 993-9269. Spectators and family members do not need to register-just show up to cheer on the participants.
- b. **Flag Policy:** Andrew Romano notified the Committee that the Select Board could review the current Flag Policy at their next meeting on June 24th if committee members have recommendations for amendments. The flag policy is available on the Town of Fairhaven website at https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif7541/f/uploads/flag-banner_policy_updated_05.25.2022.pdf If any committee members or others would like to offer any recommendations for amendments, please contact Andrew via e-mail prior to June 17th so that he may submit a request for the Select Board to review the policy.
- c. **Public Comments:** No comments provided.

Next Meeting: July 10, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned by Jessica Fidalgo at 7:05 PM.

Alliea E. Group

Signed by: