

**Town of Fairhaven**  
Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719



### Belonging Committee

**Date, Time, and Location:**

September 25, 2024 at 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:**

**Call to order:** The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law and updated Zoom requirements were reviewed.

**Quorum/Attendance**

*In attendance:*

Members: Jessica Fidalgo, Chair; Alliea E. Group, Clerk; Kelly Ochoa; Greg Weider, Vice Chair.

Ex Officio: Sgt. Jerome Penha, Jr., Police Department Rep; Andrew Romano, Select Board Representative.

*Absent:*

Members: Laura Barillaro; Rachel Medeiros;

Vacant Positions: Fire Department Representative; School Department Representative.

**Approval of prior minutes:** A motion was made by Kelly Ochoa, seconded by Greg Weider, to approve the July 2024 minutes as revised. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Request by Chair:** A motion was made by Kelly Ochoa and seconded by Greg Weider to move the Police Communication discussion out of order and address it immediately. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Police Communication:** An initial discussion was held to determine whether to remove this agenda item from the meeting. The committee chose to keep the item on the agenda and proceeded with a discussion on reporting inappropriate or discriminatory acts, including bullying and graffiti. The committee reminded all Fairhaven residents and visitors that they may report such concerns to the Fairhaven Police Department by:

- Calling (508) 997-7421,
- Visiting the department in person at 1 Bryant Lane, or
- Submitting a tip online at <https://fairhavenpolice.org/submit-a-tip/>.

Additionally, all Belonging Committee members were reminded of their responsibility to "say something if we see something" and were encouraged to assist others in reporting incidents

## New Business

**Fairhaven KidsFest:** The event will be held on Saturday, October 12th, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the lawn of the Visitors Center and Fairhaven High School, 141 Main Street (at Route 6/Huttleston Ave.). It is sponsored by the Millicent Library Youth Services and the Fairhaven Recreation Department. Admission is free. The event will feature craft vendors, children's activities, and entertainment for all. Costumes are encouraged.

For more information, contact:

- Alie Thiel, Millicent Library Youth Services, at (508) 992-5342 or via e-mail at [athiel@sailsinc.org](mailto:athiel@sailsinc.org), or
- The Fairhaven Recreation Center at (508) 993-9269.

*A motion was made by Alliea Group and seconded by Kelly Ochoa to participate in KidsFest, pending confirmation that committee members will be available to provide coverage for the event.*

**Halloween Festivities:** Fairhaven TV will host its 7th annual Haunted Halloween Party on Friday, October 25th, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street. The party will feature trick-or-treating, a costume contest, arts and crafts activities, spooky movie screenings, a magic show, and more.

For more information, visit: [www.fairhaventv.com/hauntedhalloweenparty](http://www.fairhaventv.com/hauntedhalloweenparty).

*A motion was made by Kelly Ochoa and seconded by Alliea Group to participate in the Fairhaven TV Haunted Halloween Party. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.*

**Olde-Tyme Holiday Village:** Fairhaven's 26th annual Olde-Tyme Holiday Village will be held on Saturday, December 14th, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM at Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street, with additional events at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven (102 Green Street) and First Congregational Church, UCC (34 Center Street). The event will feature a mix of cherished traditions and exciting new attractions for all ages.

*A motion was made by Alliea Group and seconded by Kelly Ochoa to participate in the Olde-Tyme Holiday Village. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Alliea Group and seconded by Kelly Ochoa to authorize spending up to \$100 to support the committee's participation in the Olde-Tyme Holiday Village. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.*

**Police Communication:** *This agenda item was previously discussed.*

**Items Not Previously Anticipated/ Board Member Comments:**

Alliea Grouppp provided a report on potential Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)-related flags that may be added to those the committee presents to the Select Board for approval. These include the Progress Pride Flag and Juneteenth Flag in June, as well as the Disability Pride Flag in July. The committee decided to add an agenda item to the January 2025 meeting to discuss the 2025 flag proposals for Select Board recommendation.

Andrew Romano presented an email from an organization interested in partnering with Fairhaven to provide DEI training opportunities. As the Select Board representative, Andrew will follow up regarding the request to gather more information and present it to the committee at a later time.

**Public Comments:** As no members of the public were present, no comments were received.

**Next Meeting:** November 13, 2024

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by Jessica Fidalgo at 7:15 PM.

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Alliea E. Grouppp

Signed by: