Town of Fairhaven Fall Meeting

Committee Report

Special By-Law Review Committee

November 2026

Dear Town Meeting Members,

The Special By-Law Review Committee was established by the Select Board pursuant to Section 8-4 of the recently enacted Town of Fairhaven Charter:

> *Not more than forty-five (45) days following the election at which the Charter is adopted or amended, the Select Board shall appoint a special committee of at least three (3) members to review the existing by-laws of the Town, in order to bring them into conformity with the provisions of the Charter. Said committee shall file a report, with recommendations, at the following Town Meeting.*

The Committee's work therefore was to conduct a gap analysis between the Town's bylaws and the Charter to ensure alignment.

Over the span of several meetings, the Committee members individually and in small groups conducted their respective assessments. The analysis was then combined, discussed, and forwarded to Town Counsel for review.

The Town Counsel took the Committee's feedback and converted it into recommended bylaw amendments that were then reviewed by the Select Board and approved as part of the meeting warrant.

In addition to the recommended changes proposed in the warrant to ensure the bylaws and Charter align, the Committee does recommend that the Town consider a comprehensive bylaw review in the coming years to eliminate any obsolete bylaws or make any changes that fell outside the scope of this Committee.

Sincerely,

Special By-Law Review Committee