Board of Appeals

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719

<u>Meeting Minutes</u>

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I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Francis Cox opened the April 5, 2022 meeting at 6:00p.m. and read the protocol for Zoom meetings and Open Public Meeting Law.

Francis Cox advised that the meeting was being conducted in-person and remotely, consistent with Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022. The legislation suspends the requirement of Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location.

For this meeting, the Zoning Board of Appeals convened in-person, as well as by telephone and video conference via Zoom as posted on the Town's website identifying how the public may join. The meeting was recorded and will be televised at a later date; some attendees participated by phone and video conference and used chat on Zoom.

Quorum/Attendance: Francis Cox, Kenneth Kendall, Daryl Manchester, Ruy DaSilva, Peg Cook

Absent: Peter DeTerra, Jamie DeSousa, Alberto Silva, Nicholas Sylvia

Building Commissioner: Chris Carmichael

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to accept the March 1, 2022 minutes and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote by Kenneth Kendall, Daryl Manchester, Ruy Dasilva, Peg Cook and Francis Cox (5-0).

Ruy DaSilva made a motion to open the public hearing and was seconded by Daryl Manchester. The motion passed via roll call vote by Kenneth Kendall, Daryl Manchester, Ruy Dasilva, Peg Cook and Francis Cox (5-0).

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. REF#: ZBA-2022-022: 184 Balsam Street. Applicant & Owner: Robert and Karen Sullivan. Applicant seeks a Variance to construct a dock greater than 75 feet in length due to shallowness of docking area pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-32.2(3)(a).

Engineer, Michael Koska represented the applicant and is responsible drafting the plans for this proposed dock. He stated there was an appeal made by the abutters. He and the applicant met with MassDEP, Wetlands Division. The MassDEP Superseding Order of Conditions (SOC) clarified any of the environmental concerns. One major modification, as an outcome of the meeting, was to move the first set of pilings onto the upland side,

to minimize impact within the wetland resource area. The SOC was in response to the Citizens Group appealing the Conservation Commission's approval. Following an indepth review, and in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.), Chapter 131, § 40, the MassDEP has determined the work associated with the project will occur in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Salt Marsh, Land Containing Shellfish, and Land Under the Ocean. It is in the opinion of the MassDEP that the SOC adequately protects the interests of M.G.L. The SOC approved the construction of the pile supported pier with attached floats and a boat lift system.

Michael Koska read the Special Conditions outlined in the SOC, from the Mass DEP, Bureau of Water Resources – Wetlands, which are as follows:

- 1. This Order approves the construction of a 4'x10' ramp, 4'x45' pile supported pier, 3'x20' gangway, two 8'x16' floats, a boat lift system, and the installation of 16 piles, water and electrical service.
- 2. The maximum width of the ramp and pier shall not exceed 4', the width of the gangway shall not 3', the floats shall not exceed 8' in width, the pile supported boat lift shall not occupy an area greater than 10'x15'.
- 3. Prior to the commencement of construction, the project proponent must apply for and complete the Chapter 91 licensing process.
- 4. Prior to commencement of construction and at the discretion of the Fairhaven Shellfish Constable, and under his supervision, the applicant may be required to purchase seed shellfish and seed adjacent areas. The quantity of seed shall be reasonably determined and approved by the Shellfish Constable and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries.
- 5. The use of timbers treated with Creosote is prohibited as construction material. Wood preservative must be dry before any treated wood is used in construction.
- 6. No heavy construction, equipment, cranes, vehicles, or barges are permitted on the Salt Marsh, Coastal Beach, Land Under the Ocean, or Land Containing Shellfish.
- 7. A minimum 6' of separation shall be maintained between the lowest horizontal member and the Salt Marsh.
- The pier decking shall be constructed of ThruFlow Decking or equivalent to allow adequate light to preserve the productivity of the Slat Marsh vegetation beneath the structure.
- 9. Float stops shall be installed to maintain a 30' separation between the bottom of the float drums and the Land Under the Ocean and Land Containing Shellfish.

- 10. Dredging (including but not limited to the effects of proposash) is neither proposed nor permitted in this filing.
- 11. Jetting of piles is prohibited. Piles shall not be mechanically driven to refusal or a depth of at least 12' below grade.
- 12. The installation of pilings will be performed using a crane set o a barge. The barge will be operated in at least two feet of water and not permitted to ground out at low tides.
- 13. Alternatively, construction may be accomplished by working out from and upon completed portions of the pier.
- 14. Prior to the start of construction, the applicant of their representative shall notify the Department, the Town of Fairhaven Conservation Commission, and the Shellfish Constable as to the date(s) of construction and anticipated time of arrival and departure of the barge.
- 15. If removed, any portion of the dock or float system shall be stored in a suitable upland location (above mean high water and landward of the Slat Marsh).
- 16. Upon completion of the project a Certificate of Compliance shall be requested in accordance with General Condition No. 12, and under the provisions of 310 CMR 10.05(9)(d). An "AS-BUILT" plan and a statement from a registered Professional Engineer certifying compliance with the conditions of this Order shall accompany the request for a Certificate of Compliance.
- 17. Future maintenance of the approved structure, in strict compliance with the conditions of this Order, is permissible above the water line.

The issuance of the SOC MassDEP File number SE 23-1368, was signed by Daniel Gilmore, Chief of the Wetlands & Waterways Program, Bureau of Water Resources.

Kenneth Kendall read the Harbormaster's letter.

Robert Sullivan requested the names of those in support of the dock (61 signed letter in support).

Abutters, Nancy Williams and Mark Williams, of 5 Cherrystone Road and 190 Cottonwood Street believed the Sullivan's followed proper steps in accordance with the town and state and should not be denied. They stated that part of the cove is mostly crab and eel grass, and only usable at high tide.

Robert Elander of 188 Balsam Street presented his objection to the pier. He expressed concern that if this pier were to be constructed it would be a gateway for populating the coast line. Mr. Elander spoke of surveys done on West Island that determined the proliferation of docks will destroy West Island aesthetics.

Ron Keys of 198 Balsam Street also presented his objection to the project. He felt this this dock will restrict access for swimmers and kayakers. West Island has been in a similar condition for decades. He read a letter, submitted by the Citizens' Group of West Island, which outlined the objections to the proposed dock.

Diane Elander Keys, Chair of the Citizens Group for West Island, requested the Board consider all concerns and objections brought forth from residents. This is traditionally an area for kayakers, swimmers, etc. She felt the applicant did not reach out to abutters and listen to their concerns. She asserts the dock will have adverse impacts on coastal ecology and recreational use. She also expressed concern that the gear lift will set a precedent for future docks in the area. She stated the gear lift has 4 additional pilings and those pilings encroach upon the 25-foot north side line of property.

Michael Ristuccio of 192 Balsam Street asked the Board if the proposed pier will encroach on the 25-foot setback of Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw.

Michael Kosta confirmed it does not encroach on the setback. The Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw states that pier, gangway, and floats shall be at least 25-feet of the property lines. There is nothing mentioned in the Bylaw about a boat lift.

Mr. Ristuccio stated the intent of the Bylaw is not to have anything 25-feet. He asked if the applicant is requesting a Variance from the 25-foot setback? If not, the Board should ask them to come back with this request.

Cindy Marsh Heath, owner of 186 Balsam Street and a direct abutter to the proposed pier has a problem with the dock on an environmental standpoint. She felt it would destroy eel grass.

Daryl Manchester answered Mr. Ristuccio's concern regarding the 25-foot setback. He confirmed the applicant is only looking for a Variance for an extension beyond the 75-feet of the maximum 90 feet, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-32.2(3)(a). The Conservation Commission, and the shellfish warden have ruled in favor issues outside the Zoning Board's purview.

Mr. Manchester advised Ms. Marsh Heath that she can write an appeal if the Board votes in favor.

Robert Sullivan stated he met with the MassDEP on January 7, 2022, at which time, he attempted to discuss with the Citizen Group and conceded to adjustments. He did not

feel the residents were receptive to any proposed alterations or reductions during this meeting. He believes he has been professional and transparent regarding his proposed plans. He feels he has followed every regulation, including proper consultation with the Harbormaster and confirmed the Conservation Commission determined this to be a permittable project. The state has now certified this is a permittable project that meets all the standards. He is asking the Zoning Board for a 19' extension, which was requested by the DEP to ensure an environmentally viable project.

Robert Keys made a rebuttal to Robert Sullivan stating the meeting held on January 7, 2022 was an inspection by the DEP, and did not feel this meeting included the neighbors. He did confirm Mr. Sullivan has been following all regulations and steps to ensure proper policy is met, but still feels regulatory agencies are only focusing on the individual project instead of the regional implications.

Kenneth Kendall asked if the Army Corps of Engineers have been contacted and if they are involved in the project.

Mr. Kosta stated that will be in the next phase of Chapter 91. Chapter 91 has required an Order of Conditions from Conservation, and in this case, we have the MassDEP's SOC. Also required under Chapter 91 included a letter from the municipal Building Inspector, and from the Planning Board. This project must now go before the Zoning Board of Appeals to exceed the 75' maximum requirement, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-32.2(3) (a). He stated every step will be fully followed, until it is signed by Governor Baker.

Francis Cox made a public record that he will abstain from voting from the Variance approval for 184 Balsam Street.

Mr. Sullivan requested to continue to May 3, 2022.

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to continue 184 Balsam Street to May 3, 2022, to allow the applicant to discuss changes with neighbors and the motion was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed via roll call vote by Ruy DaSilva, Daryl Manchester, Kenneth Kendall, and Peg Cook (4-0).

Francis Cox made a motion to close the hearing for 184 Balsam Street and was seconded by Kenneth Kendall. The motion passed via roll call vote by Kenneth Kendall, Ruy DaSilva, Daryl Manchester, and Peg Cook (4-0).

Francis Cox read the request from Realty Trust, Allen & Major (A&M) for the previously granted Variance in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 40A, § 10 for 108 Sycamore Street. The Variance was granted by the Board of Appeals on May 4, 2021, and certified by the Town Clerk on June 4, 2021. No appeal has been filed. The owner is currently in the process of obtaining the required permits to start demolition of

the existing structure and the construction of a new structure, along with the infrastructure to support the development.

Paul Matos of Allen & Major Associates, Inc. represented the applicant and stated he filed paperwork to request a 6-month extension on February 10, 2022. The Variance is set to expire on May 4, 2022, and delays were due to asbestos removal that required a sign off from MassDEP. They requested a 3-month extension, but are willing to accept however long the Board sees fit.

Chris Carmichael confirmed a building permit has been filed with the Building Department and believes the application dates solidify the Variance. He does not believe a continuation is required, due to case law allowing up to (2) years. He recommended the Board conduct a vote, since the representative is before them tonight.

Ruy DaSilva made a motion to approve the Variance extension for 108 Sycamore and was seconded by Kenneth Kendall. The motion passed via roll call vote by Kenneth Kendall, Daryl Manchester, Peg, Cook, Ruy DaSilva and Francis Cox (5-0).

2. REF#: ZBA-022-023: 2 Elliot Lane, Map 12, Lots 196-198. Applicant & Owner: Sandra Gifford. Applicant seeks a Special Permit under the Fairhaven Bylaw 198-16, to construct a two-floor addition, for the purpose of an in-law suite of approximately 1,400 square feet.

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to continue 2 Elliott Lane to the end of the meeting and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed via roll call vote by Peg Cook, Daryl Manchester, Ruy DaSilva, Kenneth Kendall and Francis Cox (5-0).

3. REF#: ZBA-022-008: 5 Billys Way, Map 29A, Lots 185-186. Applicant & Owner: Sharon Simmons. Applicant seeks (1) Variance to construct accessory structure greater than 20 feet in height, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-22 (2) and; (2) Variance to construct accessory structure in the front yard, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-22 (3). Please note: The applicant will need a Variance from the Building Board of Regulations and Standards to construct a detached accessory structure in excess of 100 sq ft in the FEMA Velocity Zone.

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to continue 5 Billy's Way to the May 3, 2022 meeting and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed via roll call vote by Peg Cook, Ruy DaSilva, Daryl Manchester, Kenneth Kendall and Francis Cox (5-0).

4. REF#: ZBA-022-009: 55 Orchard Street, Map 28B, Lots 410 & 411. Applicant & Owner: Despina Moran-Devlin. Applicant seeks (1) an appeal of the Building Commissioner's Stop Work Order dated 11/15/21 and; (2) a finding from the Board under MGL 40A, Section 6, for expansion of an existing nonconforming use to construct a 22'.8"x 18'.7"

carport and 37'.5"x9'.5" deck, and that the additions are not more substantially detrimental than the existing nonconforming use to the neighborhood. Please note: The Board awaits the submittal of an instrument survey from a registered land surveyor to confirm that the proposed setbacks are conforming to the Zoning Bylaw 198-18: Intensity of Use Schedule.

April 5, 2022

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to continue 55 Orchard Street to the May 3, 2022 meeting and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed via roll call vote by Peg Cook, Ruy DaSilva, Daryl Manchester, Kenneth Kendall and Francis Cox (5-0).

5. REF#: ZBA-022-010: 3 Bass Creek Road, Map 43C, Lots 40-42, Applicant & Owner: Karen Cabral. Applicant seeks a Special Permit for a mobile home stored or occupied on the property, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-28.

Chris Carmichael advised the Board that (2) votes are required: (1) The applicant requires a Special Permit, pursuant to 198-16 for the mobile home and; (2) a Variance, pursuant to 198-28 F.8, since a mobile home is prohibited in a flood plain.

Mr. Beesly spoke on behalf of Karen Cabral. He stated a Special Permit had been instated for the last three years. It is located on the property from May-September and not very visible from the street. This request is for same the location as the previous approval. This trailer is for exclusive use of a special needs relative that visits seasonally. There is no extra room for additional guests or visitors. He addressed the flood plain issue and confirmed the camper is removed out of the area in severe weather. He also noted the trailer is registered, insured and road worthy.

Elaine and Sylvester Vercellone, of 4 Balsam Street spoke in favor of the trailer. They assured the Board that the applicant maintains it responsibly and properly during the winter months.

Ruy DaSilva made a motion to grant a Special Permit for a mobile home stored at 3 Bass Creek and was seconded by Daryl Manchester. The motion passed by Peg Cook, Ruy DaSilva, Daryl Manchester, Kenneth Kendall and Francis Cox (5-0).

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to approve the Variance for 3 Bass Creek, pursuant to 198-28 F.8 and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed via roll call vote by Peg Cook, Ruy DaSilva, Daryl Manchester, Kenneth Kendall and Francis Cox (5-0).

6. REF#: ZBA-022-011: 29 Winsegansett Avenue, Map 42A, Lot 148. Applicant: Taylor Bradford. Owner: Henry Bradford III. Applicant seeks a Special Permit for home occupation contractor services, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-23.

Taylor Bradford presented his business certificate request for home improvement, handyman services, at 29 Winsegansett Avenue. He confirmed no changes will be made to the home.

Kenneth Kendall asked the applicant if he has read the rules and regulations for home occupied businesses.

The applicant confirmed he is aware of all rules and regulations that apply to his business.

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to a grant Special Permit for 29 Winsegansett Avenue and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed via roll call vote by Peg Cook, Ruy DaSilva, Daryl Manchester, Kenneth Kendall and Francis Cox (5-0).

7. REF#: ZBA-022-012: 89 Akin Street, Map 30B, Lot 54, Applicant & Owner: Daniel Pounds. Applicant seeks Variance from the minimum rear setback of 30 feet to the 21 feet proposed, for the construction of a single-family home, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-18.

Engineer, Rick Charon, represented Daniel Pounds. The applicant would like to tear down the old house and build a new home. The plan has undergone the Conservation Commission's review and has been approved. The property is only 70 feet in depth, which makes it difficult to meet all setback requirements. The prior house was 10 feet off Akin Street and the proposed house will be 20.5 feet from Akin Street, in order to make room for a 28-foot depth house. If following the Bylaw directly, without a Variance, the home could only be 18 feet in depth. The lot has over 420 feet in frontage depth and totals 29,400 square feet. The building and driveway coverage is under 20 percent, which is under the allowed 50 percent. Mr. Pounds is in the process of obtaining an easement for town sewer and water and removing the septic.

Adam Medeiros, of 20 Stone Street, was concerned the new home will be closer to his property and possibly obstruct his solar array. He also had concerns about asbestos during the demolition.

Chris Carmichael stated the demolition followed all proper protocols. He did declare that the building was unsafe and ordered it removed. Prior to any demolition an asbestos survey is required and the Building Department has on record that no asbestos was detected. The demolition of this structure is an improvement to public health and safety.

Mr. Charon stated the home will be further away from Mr. Medeiros' home. There will be a 20-foot rear setback as opposed to the original 10-foot setback.

Mark Faunce, of 68 Akin Street inquired about rodent traps for demolition.

The Building Commissioner confirmed the Health Department signed off on the traps.

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to approve the rear setback Variance for 89 Akin Street and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed via roll call vote by Peg Cook, Ruy DaSilva, Daryl Manchester, Kenneth Kendall and Francis Cox (5-0).

8. REF#: ZBA-022-013: 481 Sconticut Neck Road, Map 29, Lot 27. Applicant: Christopher Saunders. Owner: Antone Arruda. Applicant seeks (1) Variance to create two buildable lots, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-17B, which states no existing lot shall be changed in size or shape, except through a public taking or except where otherwise permitted herein, so as to result in violation of the requirements set forth and; (2) Variance from the minimum required frontage of 140 feet to the 77.5 feet proposed, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-18.

Attorney, Chris Saunders, represented Antone Arruda. He stated the applicant purchased the property last year and it is the client's intent is to rehab the existing structure for his son and build an additional home on the property for themselves on lot (2). They meet all requirements for size, but lack frontage. The intent is to create one lot that is 77.5 feet. The existing foundation from the preexisting structure could make an argument for a subdivision. Unfortunately, that would still create less frontage on Sconticut Neck Road. The applicant is trying to comply and keep with the neighborhood. Mr. Arruda is simply asking for a variance on one of the lots. He has spoken to the Building Commissioner and is fully aware that this project must go before the Planning Board.

Kenneth Kendall inquired about the hardship, if both lots are in the same name.

Mr. Saunders stated the applicant would need to develop a new road and that would greatly exceed the value of the land.

Chris Carmichael stated it is up to the Board to rule on a variance reduction. Town Counsel has stated, under M.G.L Chapter 41, § 81D, that if the Planning Board approves the subdivision to have two buildable lots, they may leave the property in the same name. Two joining lots are considered one under the law.

Ruy DaSilva made a motion to approve the Variance from the minimum required frontage of 140 feet to the 77.5 feet proposed, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-18 on 481 Sconticut Neck Road and was seconded by Daryl Manchester. The motion passed by Peg Cook, Ruy DaSilva, Daryl Manchester, and Francis Cox; Kenneth Kendall objected to the motion (4-1).

9. REF#: ZBA-022-014: 148 Main Street, Map 12, Lot 12A. Applicant & Owner: Diane Tomassetti. Applicant seeks Special Permit to construct a timber pile supported pier with a gangway and a float, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-32.2.

Francis Cox made a public statement that he is recusing himself and not voting on this Special Permit.

David Davignon from Schneider, Davignon & Leone, Inc. represented the applicant for Special Permit approval. The lot is accessed via a right of way to Main Street and borders the Acushnet River on the west side. Mr. Davignon provided an aerial view photo from 1971, which depicted a pier that appeared to be longer than what is being proposed. There are (2) piles still in the ground beyond the seawall, including a concrete take-off pad still in place. The pier is (4) feet wide and 97 feet long, with a 12'x24' float. Prior to any work, all shellfish located in the vicinity of the work area shall be relocated under the supervision of the Fairhaven Shellfish Warden.

The property falls within zoning district singe residence (RA). Per Zoning Bylaw 198-32.2 – Docks and Piers, subsections A and B, the ZBA may issue a Special Permit for the construction of a pier/dock per the requirements of subsection C. Mr. Davignon confirmed the project meets the 13 criteria for Special Permit as follows:

- (1) It shall be demonstrated that the placement of a dock/pier will not have an adverse impact on coastal ecology, recreational use of adjoining waters, of the use and enjoyment of the waterfront by adjoining property owners.
- (2) All proposed dock and/or piers shall be designated and stamped by a registered Engineer.
- (3) The maximum length of any dock and/or pier including floats inside of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hurricane barrier shall be the minimum length necessary to have a minimum of two-and-one-half feet of water at Mean Low Water (MLW) at the end of the dock and/or pier. The total length of the proposed pier and float from the MHW line is 113 feet.
- (4) No dock, pier, stairs or ramp shall exceed (6) feet in width. The proposed pier width is (4) feet throughout.
- (5) Setback of any dock/pier, and associated floats shall be (25) feet to side property line as measured along the shoreline. The proposed float will be (26) feet from the north property line.
- (6) Lateral Public Access has been provided.

- (7) The total area of any and all floats associated with a dock and/or pier shall not exceed three hundred square feet. The proposed float area is (288) square feet.
- (8) The proposed orientation of the float will only allow 1, 30-foot vessel.
- (9) The proposed float will rest in 3.3. feet of water at mean low water; less than 2.5 feet of minimum allowable depth.
- (10) The proposal requires all shellfish in the vicinity of the work area to be located under the supervision of the Shellfish Warden.
- (11) A Notice of Intent has been submitted to the Conservation Commission.
- (12) The proponent's contractor will submit a Building Permit Application upon receiving all other Local, State, and Federal Authorizations.
- (13) All Local, State and Federal Permits/Authorizations will be obtained prior to applying for a Building Permit.

Ed Macedo, of 146 Main Street stated this would be a good addition to the community. Mr. Arruda is proposing to have functions with the Buzzards Bay Rowing Club. This will bring excellent camaraderie and sense of community to members of the town.

Ann Warden Smith and Bruce Gratz, of 140 Main Street also spoke in support of the project. They feel more pleasure boating in the neighborhood is a benefit.

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to approve the Variance for 148 Main Street and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed via roll call vote Kenneth Kendall, Ruy DaSilva, Peg Cook and Daryl Manchester (4-0).

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to open 2 Elliott Lane and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed via roll call vote Kenneth Kendall, Ruy DaSilva, Peg Cook and Daryl Manchester (4-0).

Daryl Manchester asked Chris Carmichael for proper protocol, considering this applicant has not appeared the Board for several months.

Mr. Carmichael advised a certified letter to be sent to the applicant. Unless the Board has official approval from the applicant to continue the application, the applicant would have to file for a constructive grant.

Kenneth Kendall made a motion to have the Zoning Department send a certified letter to the applicant for 2 Elliott Lane and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed

via roll call vote Kenneth Kendall, Ruy DaSilva, Peg Cook and Daryl Manchester and Francis Cox (5-0).

A motion to adjourn was made by Kenneth Kendall at 7:57p.m. and was seconded by Ruy DaSilva. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote by Daryl Manchester, Peg Cook, Kenneth Kendall, Ruy DaSilva and Francis Cox (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Camara, Recording Secretary