



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS
Planning Board
Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
at 6:30PM Held both at Town Hall
& Remotely via Zoom

1. GENERAL BUSINESS:

a. Chair's Welcome and Media Notification:

Madam Chair Cathy Melanson opened the meeting at 6:34pm. Ms. Melanson read the open meeting law and zoom protocol announcement.

b. Quorum/ Attendance:

Present: Cathy Melanson, Richard Trapilo, Diane Tomassetti, Patrick Carr, Sharon Simmons.

Zoom: Kevin Grant and Jessica Fidalgo were present on zoom.

Absent: Ruy DaSilva.

Recording Secretary Hailey Anne Hemingway and Land Use Planning Director Bruce Webb were present in Town Hall.

c. Minutes: October 22, 2024, draft to be reviewed.

Motion to approve minutes for October 22, 2024 made by Ms. Tomassetti, and seconded by Mr. Trapilo. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

d. Chair's statement on completion of the 40R- Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District (FSGOD) process:

Ms. Melanson and Mr. Webb both read statements about 40R being approved. (See attachment A and B)

e. **Correspondence:**

No correspondence discussed at this meeting.

2. **REVIEWS/ DISCUSSION:**

a. **2025 Schedule: Discuss 2025 Planning Board meeting schedule:**

Mr. Webb emailed the schedule for the 2025 Planning Board meetings to all the board members.

Motion to approve schedule for the 2025 Planning Board Meetings made by Ms. Tomassetti, seconded by Ms. Simmons. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

b. **Meeting Start Time: Discuss moving Planning Board meeting start time to 6:00pm from the current 6:30pm:**

Ms. Melanson brought up the discussion of moving meeting times from 6:30pm to 6:00pm.

Ms. Fidalgo and Mr. Grant raised concerns with moving the meeting times earlier due to conflicts. Mr. Carr expressed that he would have no issues, but moving it to 6:00pm would raise concerns for fellow members. Mr. Trapilo and Ms. Simmons agreed with Mr. Carr.

Board agreed to keep meeting time for 6:30pm going further.

3. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

a. **SRPEDD (Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District) Update from Planning Board Rep. Rick Trapilo:**

Mr. Trapilo is on the board for SRPEDD (Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District). Mr. Trapilo is working on the Water Quality Committee. Mr. Trapilo is on the committee to work with the City of New Bedford to find a solution for the problem with waste water discharge affecting the harbor between Fairhaven and New Bedford.

Mr. Trapilo met with Mr. Vincent Furtado, the Town of Fairhaven Board of Public Works Superintendent, and Mr. Jeffrey Osuch, the Town of Fairhaven Project Manager for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, to discuss the water treatment facility in Mattapoisett that is currently going through upgrades to the filtration

system and they did a tour of our wastewater treatment facility in Fairhaven to discuss the upgrade progress and the addition of the denitrification building.

Mr. Trapilo discussed taking a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Facility in Providence, Rhode Island. Providence has the same type of Wastewater Treatment Plant that New Bedford has. Providence completed a project in 2008 to build a tunnel that holds excess sewerage.

Mr. Trapilo read a statement written by himself (See Attachment C.)

Mr. Trapilo included additional information. (See Attachments D, E, and F.)

b. Town Meeting Committee Update from Planning Board Rep. Sharon Simmons:

Ms. Simmons has no update for this meeting. There had been no further meetings at this time.

c. Economic Development Committee Update from Planning Board Rep. Patrick Carr:

Mr. Carr spoke about the After Hours Event of December 5th, 2024. There was a good attendance. Mr. Carr spoke at the event about 40R and how it would help the town economically. Mr. Carr mentioned Joni Rhodes, owner of The Rescue Café, spoke about her experience opening up her business in Fairhaven.

Mr. Carr confirmed there is one seat still open on the Economic Development Committee.

d. Community Preservation Committee Update from Planning Board Rep. Diane Tomassetti:

Ms. Tomassetti spoke about eight proposals for funding that were brought to the Community Preservation Committee. Proposals for funding are from:

- Fairhaven Historical Commission- Academy Building Repairs
- Millicent Library- HVAC Engineering and Design Project
- Fairhaven High School- Window Replacement
- Whitfield Manjiro Friendship Society- Carriage House Renovations
- Fairhaven Pickleball and Tennis Associations- Replacing Existing Courts
- Fairhaven Board of Public Works- Bleachers Replacement
- Fairhaven Board of Public Works- Park Assessment

- Fairhaven Housing Authority- Window Replacement

e. **Any other business that may properly come before the Board, not reasonably anticipated when posting 48 hours prior to this meeting:**

Ms. Fidalgo mentioned the Youth Vendor event being held on Sunday, December 15th, 2025.

Ms. Fidalgo spoke about the CPTC (Citizen Planning Trainer Committee) starting their fall training series. It includes Fall and Winter training events. Ms. Fidalgo has hand outs to forward to board if interested.

4. **NEXT MEETINGS:**

a. **Regular Business:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hailey Anne Hemingway

Minutes approved at Board Meeting on 3/11/2025