

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



### **Belonging Committee**

#### **Date, Time, and Location:**

January 8, 2025

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/11514976>

#### **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. Groupp, Clerk; Kelly Ochoa; Greg Weider, Vice Chair.
- **Ex Officio:** Sgt. Jerome Penha, Jr., Police Department Representative; Andrew Romano, Select Board Representative.

##### **Absent:**

- **Members:** Laura Barillaro; Rachel Medeiros; August Baker
- **Vacant Positions:** Fire Department Representative; School Department Representative.

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

#### **New Business**

Greg Weider has submitted his resignation, so this will be his last meeting with us. The committee thanked Greg for his service on the committee.

**Committee Calendar for the Year:** The committee held a discussion regarding formalizing standing events that the committee would host during the year; further discussion will be held at a future meeting.

- **Black History Month (February):** Jessica will explore opportunities for an event to host or cosponsor.

- **Women's History Month (March):** Jessica will explore a couple of options for an event to host or cosponsor.

**2024 Committee Report:** Alliea and Jessica will work on creating and submitting the report to the Town as required.

## **Old Business**

**Updates Since the Last Meeting:** The committee participated in the following events:

- **Fairhaven TV's 7th Annual Haunted Halloween Party, held on Friday, October 25th, from 5 to 8 PM.**
- **4th Annual Fairhaven Kids Fest, co-sponsored by the Millicent Library and the Fairhaven Recreation Department, held on Saturday, October 12th, from 10 AM to 2 PM.**
- **Olde Tyme Holiday Village on Saturday, December 14th.**

**Youth Representative:** The committee briefly discussed the opportunity of adding a youth representative; this will be discussed further at a future meeting.

## **Items Not Previously Anticipated/Committee Member Comments**

**Boston Center for Equality:** Andrew Romano was tasked with following up with the organization on behalf of the committee.

They are offering the following paid services:

- **DEI Community Survey with recommendations**
- **DEI Comprehensive Strategy for the town**
- **Workplace and Committee DEI trainings**

The Select Board has requested that the Belonging Committee review the options and consider whether this is an option that we would like to pursue. No further discussion was held. The committee will review the proposal and discuss it at a future meeting.

**Meeting Date Change:** The committee briefly discussed potential options for changing the meeting date. A full discussion and decision will be made at a future meeting.

**Public Comments:** No members of the public were present; no comments were made.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Jessica Fidalgo at 7:20 PM.

Alliea E. Group

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Signed by: