



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2025 FEB 25 AM 9:41

Present: Chair Stasia Powers, Vice-Chair Charles Murphy Sr., Clerk Andrew B. Saunders, members Keith Silvia and Andrew Romano and Acting Town Administrator George Samia

Ms. Powers opened the meeting at 6:01p.m.

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

Appointment, Environmental Certifying Officer

Ms. Powers reviewed the request from Public Works Superintendent Vincent Furtado.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Vincent Furtado as the Environmental Certifying Officer. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment, Conservation Commission

Mr. Silvia recused himself and exited the Banquet Room

Ms. Powers reviewed the number of terms and positions available and called on each applicant. Justin Methia was not present to address the Board.

Karyn Ferreira addressed the Board and discussed her background, experience and interest. The Board asked Ms. Ferreira if she could make the commitment to complete trainings which can be up to 100 hours, if she would be available for outside of meeting time for site visits and if she has attended or watched Conservation Commission meetings.

Diane Tomassetti addressed the Board and discussed her background, experience and interest. The Board asked Ms. Tomassetti the same questions about commitment to complete trainings which can be up to 100 hours, if she would be available for outside of meeting time for site visits and if she has attended or watched Conservation Commission meetings and understood the role.

Karen Goodhue addressed the Board and discussed her background, experience and interest. The Board asked Ms. Tomassetti the same questions about commitment to complete trainings which can be up to 100 hours, if she would be available for outside of meeting time for site visits and if she has attended or watched Conservation Commission meetings and understood the role.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Diane Tomassetti to the Conservation Commission for a term through May, 2027. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Silvia abstained.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Karen Goodhue to the Conservation Commission for a term through May, 2027. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Silvia abstained.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Karyn Ferreira to the Conservation Commission for a term through May, 2026. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Silvia abstained.

Mr. Silvia returned to the Banquet Room

Appointment, Sustainability Committee

Melanie Jansky addressed the Board via zoom and discussed her background, experience and interest. Mr. Romano confirmed Ms. Jansky's attendance at Sustainability Committee meetings.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Melanie Jansky to the Sustainability Committee for a term through May, 2025. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

MINUTES

Ms. Powers explained a typo in the January 13, 2025 Open Session minutes was corrected.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to accept the amended minutes of January 13, 2025, Open Session. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to accept the minutes of January 27, 2025, Open Session. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to accept the minutes of January 27, 2025, Executive Session. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to take item F3 Out of Order. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Marine Resources: Non-Resident, Non-Commercial Shellfish Permit Rate

Harbormaster Tim Cox addressed the Board via zoom and reviewed the history of fee changes in 2024. The Marine Resources Committee recommended raising the Non-Resident, Non-Commercial Shellfish Permit from \$135 to \$175 and the Town Administrator recommended \$275 which was accepted. Mr. Cox reviewed the total sold which decreased and Marine Resources Committee met and is recommending a change to the Non-Resident, Non-Commercial Shellfish Permit Rate to \$175 from \$275.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to change the Non-Resident, Non-Commercial Shellfish Permit Rate from \$275 to \$175. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to take the Town Administrator Report Out of Order. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Samia reported:

- Staffing Updates: No updates at this time
- FY26 Budget Update: Mr. Samia distributed the FY26 Budget documents to the Select Board and Finance Committee last week and is preparing the next draft for the next regular Select Board meeting.
- Other: Ms. Carreiro has been watching the Municipal Empowerment Act and recommended the Board seek letters of support from Representative Sylvia and also State Senator Montigny. The Board would like to understand what the opposition to this has been. The Board would like to see more Local Aid.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Powers opened the Public Hearing at 6:31p.m. and read the notice: Shawn Skinner of 12 Ocean Ave., Fairhaven, MA 02719. The named party is requesting permission to operate a two-acre Aquaculture Site for a three-year lease. Objections to the site should be made in person or via zoom at this meeting. Proposed location: NW Lat: 41.6061713 Long: -70.8462899, NE Lat:41.6059606 Long: -70.8451769, SW Lat: 41.6053579 Long:-70.8465488, SW Lat 41.6052124 Long: -70.8455440

Shawn Skinner addressed the Board about the application and showed the location on the map.

Mr. Cox addressed the Board via zoom about the application, history of Aquaculture Sites and the process they follow when a license is issued. The Board asked questions about the storage of equipment, how Mr. Skinner will access the site and the value of the equipment.

Public Comment:

Bob Grindrod of Center Street addressed the Board to ask for clarification on the location on the map.

Ms. Powers closed the Public Hearing at 6:42p.m.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to approve the request of Shawn Skinner of 12 Ocean Ave. to operate a two-acre Aquaculture Site at the proposed location. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to enter into executive session Pursuant to G.L. c.30A, s.21(a)(3) discuss potential litigation: Patrick Carr and Ruy daSilva. And, Pursuant to G.L. c.30A, s. 21(a)(3) and 21(a)(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, the Public Records Law, G.L. c.4, s. 7(26), the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, s.21(a), and Suffolk Construction v. DCAM, 449 Mass. 444 (2007) (discuss potential litigation, confidential executive session discussions with Zoning Board of Appeals, and privileged written legal advice regarding 12 Huttleston Ave, and to return to open session. Mr. Saunders seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Romano, Mr. Saunders, Ms. Powers, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session from 6:46p.m. to 8:34pm

Ms. Powers stated that the Board will pass over the next two items (F1. To discuss complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual: Ruy daSilva; and F2. To discuss complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual: Patrick Carr) on the agenda and schedule a public hearing. The Board discussed a date and time to reconvene and will hold public hearings on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 6:00p.m.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to do a public hearing to hear complaints or charges against Ruy daSilva and to decide what action to take, if any, up to and including discipline or removal on February 26, 2025 at 6:00p.m. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Murphy abstained.

Motion: Mr. Silvia motioned to do a public hearing to hear complaints or charges against Patrick Carr and to decide what action to take, if any, up to and including discipline or removal on February 26, 2025 at 6:00p.m. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Saunders abstained.

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Use of Town Hall and Special One-Day Liquor License: ST. Patrick's Celebration, March 12, 2025

Alyssa Botelho addressed the Board via zoom about the event and details. The Board clarified the fees listed.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to approve the Use of Town Hall and Special One-Day Liquor License: St. Patrick's Celebration, March 12, 2025 from 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Discuss Fairhaven Needs and Priorities for future meeting with Representative Sylvia

Ms. Powers reviewed the item and future agenda item for Representative Sylvia to attend on February 24, 2025. Discussion ensued as to the priorities the Board wanted to identify and review with Rep. Sylvia.

The items are:

- Increasing Local Aid and tap into the state's "rainy-day" fund;
- How can Fairhaven tap into additional housing funds the Governor is proposing;
- Opportunities for Regionalization
- Review his vote on House 57 regarding unsheltered families
- Impacts of a potential change to the split of funds from the Millionaire's Tax to move from 60% Education and 40% Transportation to place a higher portion into Transportation for the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority); MBTA is a certain area of the state and Education covers the entire state.

Town Administrator Search

Ms. Powers asked each Board Member for their appointee. The School Committee selected Colin Veitch and Public Works is meeting tonight and will forward their selection.

Appointed By:	Appointee:
Ms. Powers	Pam Kuechler
Mr. Murphy	David Darmofal
Mr. Saunders	Ken Blanchard
Mr. Silvia	Jeffrey Osuch
Mr. Romano	Mark Rees
School Committee	Colin Veitch
Board of Public Works	<i>To be determined</i>

Mr. Samia will schedule interviews with the firms that submitted proposals. The Board discussed appointing a member to work with Mr. Samia, attend the interviews and assist with the recommendation of a firm to the Board.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Andrew Romano to sit with George Samia to interview candidates for the Town Administrator Search. Mr. Murphy seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Silvia reported:

The Historical Commission met and discussed the repair/replacement of the flagpole at Fort Phoenix; a Townsperson has donated a replacement pole. Historical Commission member Natalie Mello addressed the Board and said quotes are being reviewed. Ms. Powers asked the Commission to advise the Select Board once the total is determined so the Board can accept the gift.

Mr. Murphy reported:

No meetings to report on.

Ms. Powers reported:

No meetings to report on.

Mr. Saunders reported:

Marine Resources met and discussed the Non-Resident, Non-Commercial Shellfish permit change as presented. The Committee will be preparing a proposal to change the Waterways fees and also discussing enforcement due to collectability.

Mr. Romano reported:

No meetings to report on.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Messier addressed the Board via zoom and said he watched the Board of Public Works meeting and they appointed Dan Lopes as representative to the TA Search Committee.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting is *Monday, February 24, 2025*, at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03p.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Select Board Clerk (ah)

Approved on February 24, 2025