



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS
Economic Development Committee
Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 20, 2025 at
5:30 PM Held both at Town Hall &
Remotely via Zoom

- **Chair's Welcome and Media Notification:**

Chair, Cathy Melanson, opened the meeting at 5:43pm and welcomed all.

- **Quorum and Attendance:**

Present: John Hinds, Alyssa Botelho, Bob Hannan, Karyn Ferreira, Patrick Carr, Keith Silvia

Absent: Nils Isaaksen

Cathy Melanson was present for the meeting on zoom.

Recording Secretary, Hailey Hemingway, was present at the meeting.

- **Review and Approve minutes of October 17, 2024 and January 16, 2025 meetings:**

Motion to approve minutes for October 17, 2024 and January 16, 2025 made by Ms. Melanson, seconded by Ms. Ferreira. Motion passed (3-0). Mr. Hannan abstained.

- **Correspondence:**

Ms. Botelho informed the board about a Sam Adams Brewing Boot Camp Event. Ms. Botelho sent information about the event in an email to the business list.

- **Recent and Upcoming Ribbon Cutting Events:**

Recent Events:

- A recent ribbon cutting event was at the Hanami Tea House, located at 358 Main Street.

Ms. Melanson spoke positively about the event and the new store.

Upcoming Events:

- A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Play Haven, located at 154 Huttleston Avenue. The event is scheduled for Friday, February 28, 2025.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony is waiting to be scheduled for McGraw's Backyard Ice Cream, located at 270 Huttleston Avenue. Ms. Melanson informed the board the business owner wants to wait until the weather gets nicer to host the ribbon cutting ceremony.
- Ms. Ferreira informed the board she has a meeting with the owner of Yoga Guru. Ms. Ferreira is going to ask the owner if she would like to do a ribbon cutting ceremony.

- **Local News and Potential Businesses:**

Ms. Melanson informed the board that there is a possibility that the old VFW, located at 109 Middle Street, is going to be bought.

Ms. Melanson mentioned that Big Lots, located at 7 Plaza Way, is going to be closing and the American Freight, located at 2 Fairhaven Commons Way, is closed.

Mr. Hannan informed the board that there is a new auto glass company that is going to be opening on Howland Road.

Mr. Carr mentioned that the Walgreens, located at 85 Huttleston Avenue, is going to be closing.

- **Planning for the next After-Hours Business Event:**

The next After-Hours Business event is scheduled for April 17th at 5:30pm.

Ms. Melanson mentioned having a single speaker at the event.

Ms. Ferreira mentioned she spoke with the owner of Seaport Inn and the owner is going to bring a table and talk to attendees one on one. Ms. Botelho mentioned she will reach out to the Hampton Inn and the Delano House to see if they would be interested in attending.

The board discussed creating feedback surveys to go out to Fairhaven businesses and creating a business presentation.

- **Update from Community Development Coordinator:**

- Ms. Botelho presented to the board the new Discover Fairhaven website that she is developing. The website is Discoverfairhaven.org . Ms. Botelho mentioned there is a new Facebook page and Instagram page called Discover Fairhaven.
- Ms. Botelho informed the Board about the Huttleston Harborfest 2025 events (See Attachment A).
 - Mr. Hinds mentioned he will speak to the owner of The Bounty Hunter, located at 163 Huttleston Avenue, about possibly being part of the Jaws 50th Anniversary Event. Mr. Hannon brought up an idea about getting a screen to play the movie Jaws. Ms. Botelho confirmed she is working with a company to be able to play Jaws on either the Library Lawn, the Recreation Center, or Grimshaw Park.
 - Mr. Carr mentioned an idea of having food trucks at the events. Ms. Botelho confirmed that she will look into getting food trucks for the events. The board brought up concerns about bringing power for the food trucks to those locations.
 - Mr. Hinds brought up idea of reaching out to police department about having K-9 Blue attending the Dog Days of Summer Event. Mr. Hinds brought up also inviting local dog trainers.
- Ms. Botelho mentioned Ms. Anne Carreiro and Mr. Bruce Webb sent her an email regarding economic development tax credits. Ms. Botelho and Mr. Webb are looking into this program.
 - Mr. Webb informed board he will get more information regarding Mr. Carr's concerns of how this program works with state funding and the timeline for getting monies.
 - Mr. Hannon questioned if there is a list of all the vacant store fronts in Fairhaven. Ms. Melanson confirmed there is a list but it does need to be updated.

- **Any other business reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting:**

Ms. Melanson mentioned she is working with Mr. Webb on hiring a consultant to look into the bylaws to see if any can be changed to make it accessible for some more growth.

- **Next Meeting for Regular Business:**

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2025

Ms. Melanson closed the meeting at 6:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hailey Anne Hemingway

The minutes were approved on March 20, 2025.