



Town of Fairhaven Council on Aging

Fairhaven Council on Aging • 229 Huttleston Ave, Fairhaven, MA 02719
Telephone 508.979.4029 • Fax 508.979.4116



Fairhaven Council on Aging • Board Meeting Minutes March 11, 2025

Present: Martha Reed, Carol Burt, Terry Pereira, Joyce Veilleux, Susan Oistead, Joan Mello & Michael Hevey

- 1) **The meeting was legally posted on March 6, 2025**
- 2) **The meeting was called to order by Martha Reed at 9:00am**
- 3) **Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. Joyce V. made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 11, 2025 Meeting, Sue O. seconded, vote passes.
- 4) **Financial Report:** There have been no unexpected expense. Approximately 75% through the year. There was a discussion about the consistency of the gift account. There have been more donations during the tax season as well as the holiday season. All funds donated go right back into the Senior community. A discussion about the SNAP grant also ensued.
- 5) **Old Business:**
 - a. **AARP Tax Preparation:** Tax Prep - Currently have 16-20 people per day every Tuesday. Fairhaven is out of appointments. Referring to other centers. Currently filling in any empty spaces with waitlisted persons.
 - b. **FY26 COA Budget:** There is no new news about the budget. Waiting to hear from Finance Committee and the Selectboard.
 - c. **FY26 COA Capital Item Submission:** Capital Committee has not released rankings. Hopefully will know more soon.
 - d. **Fairhaven Cultural Council Grant with New Bedford Festival Theatre:** Acting classes have been amazing. There is great feedback and they are going well.
 - e. **Valentine's Day Social:** The event had 74 people attend. All had a wonderful time.
 - f. **Easter Dinner at the COA (4/20/2025 Noon-2PM):** Easter Dinner will be Noon to 2pm. We will contact Max's Soda bar for the meals and will start taking names.
- 6) **New Business**
 - a. **Jacqueline Kenworthy Memorial Garden Request:** A draft letter was created to present to the Selectboard. The Lions Club has also offered to help with the Garden as Jackqueline was a part of their Club. There will also be raised garden beds constructed that will be ADA compliant.
 - b. **Digital Literacy Grant Wrap up (2/28/2025):** Grant from EOEA now AGE. There were leftover funds available. The funds were spent on iPads' and Laptops to loan out. They will be great for those who have telehealth appointments.
 - c. **Hybrid Programming Grant Wrap up (3/31/2025):** All funds have been utilized. Recent expenditures to the grant included purchases to have large group Zoom

capabilities/ Conferences. We are still offering live streaming and have also purchased a second camera equipment set up to accommodate anything needed for a secondary camera.

- d. **MBI Digital Equity Grant:** This grant is for the whole town to purchase adaptive equipment. Currently working with the Library for “Tech Goes Home”. This will give folks the opportunity to take a 6-8 week course and at the end they will be allowed to keep the technology.

7) Directors Report:

Senior Center/Program Utilization:

	February 2025	Year to Date Total
Events	274	552
Unduplicated Persons	489	686
Units of Service	2124	4,441
S.H.I.N.E. Appts	62 (54 unduplicated)	265 (177 unduplicated)
Daily Utilization Rate	85.87	81.09

Transportation Utilization:

In February, 120 rides were provided to 48 unduplicated seniors.

Volunteer Contributions:

A dedicated group of 16 volunteers contributed over 250 hours of service, with an estimated value of \$8,500. **Please note that February Volunteer Data isn’t complete at this time, as our data entry person was on vacation for 2 weeks in February and isn’t finished entering all the data. An update will be provided at the April BOD Meeting.**

Community Support:

- **SNAP Assistance:** In February, 9 households received assistance with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) services, including eligibility screenings, recertifications, and document processing.
- **Housing Stability Services:** 1 household was supported with housing stability services, including assistance with CHAMP Housing applications and document submissions.
- **Community Surplus Food Program:** 2 new households were enrolled in the Community Surplus Food Program.

In-Person Events:

In-person events were well attended in February. 74 persons attended our Valentine’s Day Musical Bingo. Senior Supper Club had 17 attendees, while the LGBTQ+ Supper Club had a strong attendance of 33 participants. The Senior Supper Club returns to its regular time of 4PM to 6PM beginning in March. The response to the NB Festival Theater Acting Classes has been phenomenal, attracting over 15 students, the class will culminate with a “live” table read of an episode of The Golden Girls on 3/20/2025.

Social Day:

For details, please refer to the attached reports from Sally Bourke.

Hybrid Programming:

The Hybrid Programming Grant is ending this month, but we remain committed to offering programs such as Social Day entertainers, "Moving with Moxic," and the "Memory Café" via live-stream. In addition, we were able to use some remaining grant funds to turn the small classroom into a Zoom Room, which will allow us to expand both educational and social programming.

FY26 Capital Planning:

There has been no decisions or rankings released from the Capital Planning Committee for the COA request of \$32,000 kitchen remodel.

FY26 COA Budget:

To date, we have not received any further information regarding FY26 Budget appropriations, including questions from the Town's Finance Committee.

Upcoming Activities:

Musical performer Matt York will be performing on Thursday, March 20, 2025, the theme is Willie Nelson songs and stories. We will be hosting a special Easter Dinner on Sunday, April 20, 2025, at the COA. Looking ahead, we are still finishing up our Spring programming and gearing up for Summer events. With Commuter Rail service starting the end of this month, we are looking to hold an information session with MBTA and/or SRTA in April. Lastly, we have partnered with At Home Hearing to provide a monthly hearing clinic at the COA one Friday each month beginning this month.

10) Social Day Coordinators Report:**Activities:**

- Exercise, Moxie Mobility, Bingo/Jingo, Trivia, Current Events, Reminisce, Men's Group, Craft Corner, Puzzle Group, Horse Race Game, Baking Group, Walking Group, Frisbee Toss, Left, Right, Center Game, Adult Coloring Pages, Penny Ante, Bunco, Shut the Box, Seated Basketball, Words in a Word, Scrabble Group, Movie Monday

Entertainment this month:

- 2/5/25- Karaoke W/Rick Ferreira
- 2/11/25-Entertainment W/ Gary Farias
- 2/13/25-Valentine's Tea Party – Entertainment W/Judy & Barry
- 2/18/25- Entertainment W/ Dave Valerio
- 2/27/25- Entertainment W/Tony & Pat

Notes:

- 2/17/25- Presidents Day- Center will be Closed

- 2/14/25- Happy Valentine's Day! Musical Bingo W/ Eddie Freitas

Upcoming Events:

- 3/4/25- Mardi Gras Party W/ Joe Mac
- 3/11/25- Fire Safety Drill
- 3/13/25- St. Patrick's Day Party W/ Tony & Pat
- 3/25/25 " Singing Nurse"- Pam Teitz
- 3/24/25- Judy & Barry Entertain

**Total Units Serviced for the month was 195 with a client average of 10*

11) Other Business: NA

12) Next Meeting : Tuesday March 10, 2025, 2024 9:00am.

13) Roll Call & Adjournment: Carol B. made the motion to adjourn at 9:17am, Joyce Seconded.
Vote passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jocelyn Bowers
Administrative Assistant - Fairhaven COA