

Fairhaven Cultural Council
PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 6:30PM
Fairhaven Town Hall

Call to Order at 6:34 PM

Media Notification & Chairperson's Welcome

Roll Call

John Walker (Vice Chair), Beth Ann Gallagher (Chair), Serina Gundersen Thomas (Member), Katharine MacPhail (Secretary), and Jen Frasier (Treasurer).
Absent- Nicole Arruda (member) and Alexandra Mitchell (member)

Minutes Review & Approval

A motion to adopt the December meeting minutes with two spelling corrections was unanimously accepted.

Brief News Items

a. Fairhaven's 213th Birthday Acknowledgement (February 22, 1812) Maybe the FCC would like to celebrate the year 215.

Discover Fairhaven, Massachusetts

FCC Liaison Alyssa Botelho will be out of the office until March 24.

Mass Cultural Council Open Call for Grant Application Reviewers. This is a paid position. They are looking for 50 to 75 people and they usually get 1000 applications. More information can be found on their website.

Chair's Report

MGL & Council Membership Cap & Service Terms- While the town has capped FCC at 9, the state does allow up to 22. Beth Ann is looking into the term of service timeframes to be sure that we are in line with Mass General Law. The FCC is a state entity as well as a town entity.

Public Records at Town Hall

Beth Ann had an interaction with the town clerk about the files that are currently located at the Town Clerk's office. We are supposed to have the files accessible to the public. All of the FCC records are the property of the town. At least 6 years of records need to be kept at an agreed upon place, any records older than that need to be archived. Many of our records are digital since 2023.

Annual Report & Membership List

The annual report is the responsibility of the chair and Beth Ann completed it for the annual report to be distributed at annual town meeting in May. The membership list is included in the annual report along with attendance of each FCC member.

Conflict of Interest Training & Acknowledgement

This needs to be completed by all members every two years and acknowledged every year.

Grant Credit & Publicity Requirements Grantee Contact

Jen and Beth Ann wrote the emails to the grantees splitting the information into two emails.

Music in the Library 2025 Grant Project

The venue has changed from the Millicent Library to the UU Church due to there being a more appropriate space for them at the UU Church. There will be no charge to the library or the public.

A motion to accept the change of venue for the Seaglass Theater Music in the Library from the library to the Unitarian Church was unanimously approved.

Public Art Update

Amesbury has an active cultural council and does display community art at their city hall. Beth Ann sent the information

The South Coast Artists Index Disclosure

Ron Fortier asked Beth Ann and John to participate in the South Coast Artists Index. Beth Ann's position would have been a paid position so she declined, having voted to fund the project. John accepted a position on the advisory council because it is a volunteer unpaid position.

Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society

Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship society wanted to apply for a grant but he missed the deadline. He was trying to reach the FCC on the phone but he had a very hard time finding a phone number. After researching this issue the town decided that our official contact would be our town liaison.

Treasurer's Report

Jen was able to officially close the books on 2024 with all the final reports in. The 17 grants for 2025 received the revised letter and all their w9s were turned in to the selectboard. The FCC has received one final report for the 2025 grant cycle. One grantee contacted Jen about the date difference between the date he originally submitted. The FCC got a thank you note from North Fairhaven Improvement Association.

Jen emailed Anne Carreiro about gifts to the FCC and also how we could solicit on social media for its to the FCC. The payment has to be a check or cash. Checks should be made out to Town of Fairhaven with donation to FCC in memo line and mailed to town hall attention cultural council. FCC would need to keep track of any incoming donations and then be submitted to town treasurer. If we are soliciting donations in a post to social media, John suggested that the FCC highlight that all the donated money will go to grantees.

Fairhaven Cultural Council Member Feedback on Last Grant Cycle

John liked deciding on all applications in one night.

Beth Ann wants to make it clear that we prioritize applications that have gotten approval for the proposed location ahead of the application submittal.

If there are any disclosures to be made, those should be submitted earlier to accommodate the select board schedule.

Fairhaven Cultural Council Member Special Projects or Areas of Expertise

Potential

Public Art policies in Fairhaven

Katharine would like to work on public art policies in town.

ProjectsTown Cultural Positions (Would Need Select Board Approval)

Artist in Residence and Fairhaven Poet Laureate

Beth Ann has been researching south coast artists and came across a previous Fairhaven artist in residence. Beth Ann has been in touch with her about her experience. Another possibility is a poet laureate position. They are paid a stipend and are also asked to lead events. Could the FCC highlight someone who is contributing culturally to the town or make a proclamation thanking cultural contributors?

Fairhaven Cultural Council Youth Membership Position

Serena would like to look into this in the future.

When Beth Ann spoke with the former TA she was very excited about it. In other towns, the youth member helps engage the youth of the town.

Press release

Jen will write a press release for Fairhaven Neighborhood News about this season's grantees.

Putting together the dates of the funded events into the MCC calendar

Keeping track of FCC funded events would be good to note for the town and MCC calendar, maybe this would be a good administrative task for student interns.

Public comments

A motion to allow Susan Darwin to speak was unanimously accepted.

Susan Darwin paints different locations around the northeast, this year she is showing in downtown Fairhaven. She has had a lot of positive feedback. She found some space for a show in the center. She would like to have a Fairhaven Summer Art Gallery open during the month of July. Could be visiting artists connected to Fairhaven keep the gallery open. This year it is Susan Darwin, in the future it could be a visiting artist from Japan or the southwest where the Rogers family had connections. High School students could be involved with gallery assistant positions. She can get grants through her own donors for this year, she is gauging interest for future years. Northeast Maritime Institute is off for the summer and could donate their spaces for the gallery idea. She would like to incorporate the gallery with historical tours and other tourism information through the creation of maps, she has some grant money for that. Friday June 20 is the artist receptions. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings through the month of July.

Community Outreach

Banner- Beth Ann will look into the cost of the cost of a banner. The FCC logo will be used. Beth Ann will look locally first.

Social Media

Beth Ann has been making Facebook and Instagram posts about all sorts of arts events. FCC discussed the possibility of a column in the Fairhaven Neighborhood News.

Attending Grantee & Other Fairhaven & Regional Cultural Events

The members of the FCC could attend regional events, MCC encourages that.

North Fairhaven Open Air Market and Huttleston Marketplace

Huttleston Marketplace has transformed into a monthly event at Fort Phoenix, a higher end market with higher fees that is inspired by Mattapoisset Harbor Days. North Fairhaven Open Air Market is run by Chris Richard and is more like the old weekly Huttleston Marketplace, taking place at Livesey Park on Saturdays. Katharine will look into getting some dates for a table for FCC.

Homecoming Fair

Homecoming Fair on June 28th would cost \$50. Maybe we could pass out flyers during the event.

Newsletter

The tourism department will have a new website and part of that would be a newsletter option. FCC could submit information to that newsletter.

To Dos Review

Beth Ann follow up with newsletter and public art with Alyssa

Beth Ann looking into Rhonda in NB

Katharine will be checking on table at North Fairhaven Open Air Market

Jen will write a press release to FNN with grant awardees and look into dates of events for MCC and follow up with Ann for last question

Set Next Meeting Date

A motion to set our next meeting on Wednesday May 21 6:30 pm was unanimously accepted

A motion to Adjourn at 8:04 am was accepted unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine MacPhail, Secretary