



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

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2025 at**  
**5:30 PM Held both at Town Hall &**  
**Remotely via Zoom**

**1. Chair's Welcome and Media Notification:**

Chair, Cathy Melanson, opened the meeting at 5:32pm and welcomed all.

**2. Quorum & Attendance:**

Present: Cathy Melanson, John Hinds, Nils Isaksen, Karyn Ferreira, Bob Hannon, Patrick Carr, and Keith Silva.

Absent: Alyssa Botelho.

Recording Secretary, Hailey Hemingway, was present at the town hall.

**3. Review and Approve minutes of February 20, 2025 meeting:**

Motion to approve minutes for February 20, 2025 meeting made by Mr. Hinds, seconded by Ms. Ferreira. Motion passed (4-0). Mr. Carr and Mr. Hannon were not present for this vote.

**4. Commission on Disability – ADA Compliance Information/ After-Hours Business Event:**

Ms. Melanson informed the Board that the Commission on Disability was not able to attend this meeting.

The commission will attend the next After-Hours Business Event to discuss ADA compliance.

**5. Correspondence:**

No correspondence for this meeting.

**6. Recent and Upcoming Ribbon Cutting Events:**

Recent ribbon cuttings were done at:

- Hanami Tea House, located at 358 Main Street
- Play Haven, located at 154 Huttleston Avenue

There will be two upcoming ribbon cuttings:

- McGraw's Back Porch Ice Cream, located at 270 Huttleston Avenue - Suite 10
- Yoga Guru, located at 152 Huttleston Avenue

**7. Local News and Potential Businesses:**

Ms. Melanson informed the board the old Park Motors lot is for sale and it is in 40R district. There is potential for new businesses and new housing.

The Board discussed the businesses closing in town including the Big Lots, located at 7 Plaza Way and the Walgreens, located at 85 Huttleston Avenue.

**8. Planning for the next After-Hours Business Event (April 17, 2025):**

Ms. Botelho will be sending out invites to the town business list to notify them of the event.

Ms. Botelho is reaching out to Hampton Inn and Delano House about attending the event. Sophia, from the Seaport Inn will be attending the event.

**9. Updates from John Hinds:**

Mr. Hinds presented a letter to the Board about the new businesses that have opened in town and the results of a questionnaire given to town residents about what businesses they would like to see open in Fairhaven and the Fairhaven demographic data.

Mr. Hinds informed the Board that these letters are going to be mailed to the businesses.

Ms. Melanson mentioned emailing instead of mailing.

Ms. Melanson asked the Board if any members would be able to help. Mr. Hannon offered to help with this.

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

The Board discussed the Harbor Fest events at Grimshaw Park. Ms. Botelho added a Mother's Day event on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Ms. Botelho is rescheduling the MA 250 event due to scheduling conflicts with the Fairhaven Militia. The date is not available currently.

**11. Next Meeting for Regular Business: May 15, 2025:**

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Ms. Melanson closed the meeting at 6:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Hailey Anne Hemingway**

The minutes were approved on May 15, 2025