



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

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
ROUD 2025 JUL 10 PM 2:03

MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 15, 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 5:36pm and welcomed all.

2. QUORUM & ATTENDANCE:

Present: Cathy Melanson, John Hinds, Bob Hannan, Karyn Ferreira, and Alyssa Botelho
Keith Silvia arrived at 5:43pm.

Absent: Nils Isaksen and Planning Board Liaison.

Recording Secretary, Hailey Hemingway, was present at the Town Hall.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2025, 2025 MEETING:

Motion to approve the minutes for the meeting on March 20, 2025 made by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Ms. Ferreira. Motion passed unanimously (4-0). Mr. Silvia was not present for this vote.

4. REFLECTION ON APRIL 17, 2025 AFTER-HOURS NETWORKING EVENT:

Ms. Melanson spoke about the Commission on Disabilities speaking at the After-Hours event. The Commission spoke about ADA compliance.

The Board brought up concerns about the lack of participants at the recent After-Hours event. The Board discussed ideas of having future events at different locations and inviting realtors to the events.

Ms. Melanson is going to reach out to Nasketucket Bay Vineyard, located at 237 New Boston Road, to try setting up an event on Thursday, September 18, 2025. The theme would be Business to Business Discounts.

Ms. Melanson mentioned a participant, Mr. Joe Borges from Bank Five, offered to host an event at the bank.

Ms. Botelho mentioned the next After-Hours following will be Thursday, December 4th, 2025. Ms. Ferreira agreed to hold this event at Tropical Smoothie.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Melanson received correspondence from the Select Boards Office. It is a statement for all the Board Members. Ms. Melanson opted out of reading the letter due to all the board members receiving the letter.

Ms. Melanson mentioned the letter is asking Board Members to review the social media policy in the Board Members Handbook.

6. RECENT AND UPCOMING RIBBON CUTTING EVENTS:

There was recent ribbon cutting events at:

- Yoga Guru, located at 152 Huttleston Avenue.
- McGraw's Back Porch Ice Cream, located at 270 Huttleston Avenue Suite 10.
- Solto Skin + Massage Studio, located at 47 Center Street 3rd floor, Suite 1.

Ms. Melanson spoke positively about all the ribbon cutting events.

7. LOCAL NEWS AND POTENTIAL BUSINESSES:

There will be three new businesses opening:

- Sail House Tavern, located at 109 Middle Street.
- SoCo Tavern, located at 136 Huttleston Avenue.
- Aaron's Auto Glass, located at 47 Howland Road.

The Board is going to reach out to these businesses about scheduling ribbon cuttings.

8. DISCUSSION: REZONING ROUTE 6 CORRIDOR TO MIXED-USE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-
UPDATE FROM JOHN HINDS AND BON HANNAN:

Mr. Hannan presented to the Board a power point about ideas for possible rezoning of the Route 6 corridor from business use to mixed use.

The board spoke in favor of possibly turning some areas to mixed use. Ms. Melanson raised concerns about spot zoning.

The Board agreed to add this agenda item to the next meeting agenda.

Mr. Hinds asked for a motion to create a project named Fairhaven Town Owned Lots for Contractor Development.

A motion to make the project name the Fairhaven Town Owned Lots for Contractor Development made by Mr. Hinds, seconded by Mr. Hannon. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Ms. Melanson confirmed she will speak to the Town Administrator about getting the check list Mr. Hinds asked for done.

Mr. Hinds asked Ms. Botelho to add the pictures to his pamphlet. Mr. Hinds will meet with Ms. Botelho about his presentation photos.

Mr. Hinds spoke to the Board about how he is trying to put together a list of all the for lease and for sale properties in Town. Mr. Hinds reached out to a few realty offices about giving out his presentation. Mr. Hinds confirmed his next step is to email more realtors about sending them copies of his presentation. Ms. Melanson confirmed that Ms. Botelho reached out to Atlantic Realty and Summit Realty. Mr. Hinds confirmed that he will be reaching out to real estate brokers as well.

Mr. Hannan asked Mr. Hinds to speak to the real estate agents and brokers about what challenges they find with selling properties in Fairhaven. Ms. Melanson confirmed that she has spoken with them in the past and there are some concerns about the size and the demographics of Fairhaven.

9. CONFIRMING EDC MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS ARE EXPIRING:

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS REASONABLY ANTICIPATED 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE POSTING OF THIS MEETING:

Ms. Botelho spoke favorably about the Mom's Day at the Bay event on May 11, 2025. There was over 700 attendees. Ms. Botelho confirmed the next Harbor Fest event is going to be the Jaw's 50th Anniversary Event on June 21st 2025 and the Dog Days of Summer Event on July 19, 2025. Mr. Silvia brought up concerns about needing lighting for safety at the Jaw's event. Ms. Botelho confirmed she will reach out about getting lighting.

Ms. Melanson noted the additions of an Octoberfest Event and the Old Tyme Fairhaven Event.

Ms. Botelho reminded the Scoops on the Streets event is happening tomorrow, Friday May 16th, 2025. There will be a ribbon cutting at the event. There will be a few businesses at the event with tables. There will be live music by the Shepherd's Center, Euro Ship Store will be participating, Mey's Restaurant will be participating and Ice Cream Cottage will be serving.

Ms. Botelho mentioned there will be a collaboration art gallery this summer with Mass Maritime Academy.

Ms. Botelho shared with the board the new event calendar on the Discover Fairhaven website where businesses can post their upcoming events. Ms. Botelho sent an email out to the Fairhaven Businesses on the list to let them know the calendar is live.

Ms. Melanson mentioned sending out an email with the flyer for the HarborFest Events. Ms. Botelho confirmed that she had already sent them. Ms. Melanson mentioned sending out a reminder about the Octoberfest Event and the Old Tyme Holidays event. Ms. Botelho confirmed that she will send out an email.

Ms. Melanson brought up a possible Clam Boil event in memory of Mr. Grimshaw in recognition of the old clam bake restaurant that was on Grimshaw Park land.

Mr. Hannan mentioned idea of having a movie series event in the upstairs of the Town Hall. Ms. Botelho confirmed that an idea for that is possibly in the works.

11. NEXT MEETING FOR REGULAR BUSINESS: JUNE 19, 2025:

The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, June 19th, 2025.

The Board cancelled the July Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hailey Anne Hemingway

Minutes approved at meeting on June 11, 2025.