



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2025

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2025 JUN 10 PM12:37

Present: Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello, Keith Silvia, Andrew B. Saunders and Interim Town Administrator George Samia

Mr. Murphy opened the meeting at 6:00pm

PUBLIC HEARING

PETITION WO# PP02349408 from Verizon New England Inc. and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource. To place one (1) JO (jointly owned) pole to be labeled 241/8.5, Shaw Road, Fairhaven. The installation is at Eversource's request, for the purpose to provide electric service to a solar array for 46 Charity Stevens Lane.

Mr. Murphy opened the public hearing at 6:03pm and read the notice.

The Eversource representatives had technical difficulties joining.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to suspend the public hearing until all parties were present. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to take item B, Public Comment, out of order. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Erin Carr of Middle Street addressed the Board on behalf of Tracy Travers, she read a statement from Ms. Travers and gave Mr. Murphy a copy of Natalie Mello's Campaign Finance Report and two photographs (*Attachment A*).

PUBLIC HEARING

PETITION WO# PP02349408

Mr. Murphy reopened the public hearing at 6:12pm and read the notice.

Jessica Elder of Eversource addressed the Board via zoom and reviewed the petition and advised the Board that no tree removal was required and that work was already done on the pole ahead of this public hearing in error.

The Board asked questions about the solar array size and installation, clarification on the maps within the petition packet, when the public hearing on the other poles within the project was held and clarification that the work was done for pole 241/8.5 ahead of this hearing. Anthony Veilleux, Eversource Community Relations Specialist, addressed the Board via zoom and said the information on the solar array would be forwarded to the Board.

Mr. Murphy said a strong message to Eversource was needed to ensure this never happens again. Mr. Romano asked for a copy of the Eversource correspondence addressing the matter.

No public comment received.

Mr. Murphy closed the public hearing at 6:23pm.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve PETITION WO# PP02349408 from Verizon New England Inc. and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource. To place one (1) JO (jointly owned) pole to be labeled 241/8.5, Shaw Road, Fairhaven. The installation is at Eversource's request, for the purpose to provide electric service to a solar array for 46 Charity Stevens Lane. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

PETITION WO#16004390 from Verizon New England Inc. and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource. To install approximately 80' (feet) underground conduit and cable in town road northwesterly starting at newly installed JO Pole 97/18.5 and to place one (1) 45' CL1 JO (jointly owned) pole labeled 97-18.5 approximately 28' (feet) northwest of existing pole 97/18. For service to 50 Fort Street.

Mr. Murphy opened the public hearing at 6:24pm and read the notice.

The Board asked questions about the petition, location, the reason for the work, the style of pole, any tree removal and if there was a cost to the Town. Ms. Elder from Eversource reviewed the petition details and work required; no trees to be removed and no cost to the Town. This petition is a request from the customer for underground service.

No public comment received.

Mr. Murphy closed the public hearing at 6:30pm.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve PETITION WO#16004390 from Verizon New England Inc. and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource. To install approximately 80' (feet) underground conduit and cable in town road northwesterly starting at newly installed JO Pole 97/18.5 and to place one (1) 45' CL1 JO (jointly owned) pole labeled 97-18.5 approximately 28' (feet) northwest of existing pole 97/18. For service to 50 Fort Street. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation where the chair declares that an open session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating position (Civil Service) AND Pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3) - To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Ryan Robillard v. Jared Amaral 2533SC001208) AND to return to OPEN SESSION. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Romano and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session from 6:32 to 7:31pm

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

Recreation Center Director

Mr. Samia introduced the new Recreation Center Director, Bernadette Barreira, to the Board. Ms. Barreira addressed the Board and reviewed her history, background and goals for the department.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Bernadette Barreira to the Position of Recreation Center Director. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Proclamation: Fairhaven Mothers' Club

Members of the Fairhaven Mothers' Club, Cherri Johnson, Joan Pickup and Beth Luey, came forward to be recognized. Ms. Mello read the proclamation. Ms. Pickup explained that this is the last year for scholarships due to the difficulty of getting members to commit to service. Members of the Club will continue to volunteer.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the proclamation for the Fairhaven Mothers' Club. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Homecoming, June 28, 2025, 10:00am-4:00pm

Ms. Mello asked to clarify the application was to sell unopened bottles of wine only.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Homecoming, June 28, 2025, 10:00am-4:00pm. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Reappointments: Constables, Local Committees/Department Heads, Town Boards, Committees and Commissions

Mr. Murphy referred to the lists and clarified the revised list.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Mark Badwey as Art Curator and Kelly Smith as Assistant Art Curator for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Doug Brady, Lee Baumgartner, Nils Isaksen and Helena Oliveira to the Bell Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Belonging Committee

Mr. Silvia asked to hold on Belonging Committee

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Dan Lane, Amanda Robinson and Sharon Simmons to the Board of Assessors for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Barbara Acksen, Ronald Medina, John Methia to the Cable Advisory Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint David Faunce to the Capital Planning Committee for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Eleanor Chew and Annmarie Chagnon to the Commission on Disability for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Beth Luey to the Community Preservation Committee for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Jacob Galary and Anthony Couto to the Conservation Commission for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Joyce Veilleux to the Council on Aging Board for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Kristy Medeiros to the Dog Park Study Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Cathy Melanson, Bob Hannan, Karyn Ferreira, John Hinds and Nils Isaksen to the Economic Development Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Romano abstained.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Nate Bekemeier to the Historical Commission for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Jenny Fialho and Cristina Martins Pinto to the Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee for a term through May, 2027. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Will Gardner, Tim Garcia, Chip Hawthorne, Miles Grant, Freddie Estremera and Bob Espindola to the Livable Streets Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Michael McNamara, Robert Pink Jr, David Hebert and Andrew Jones to the Marine Resources Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Kathy Lopes to the Millicent Library Board of Trustees for a term through May, 2029. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Nils Isaksen as a Registrar of Voters for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Susan Loo, Doug Brady, Nils Isaksen and Beverly Rasmussen to the Rogers Reuse Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Bob Espindola to the South Coast Bikeway Alliance for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Ann Richard, Karen Gent, Christin Ritz, Susan Spooner, Tim Garcia, Melanie Jansky and John Pond to the Sustainability Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Daryl Manchester as a Full Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term through May, 2030 and Derek Furtado as an Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-1-0) Mr. Romano opposed.

Mr. Romano added that he voted in opposition to the Zoning Board of Appeals appointments because he wanted to ask the same questions he had asked the applicants at the last meeting.

Patrick Carr of Pleasant Street asked to be recognized and asked the Board a procedural question about the process on how appointments were just done that was different than last year and with Kenneth Kendall. Mr. Murphy said the Board was reappointing unless a member wanted to hold for discussion.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Joseph Latimer, Robert F. Jones, Lawrence Machado, David Miller and Milan Whitaker as Fairhaven Constables pending payment of the fee and copy of their bond to the Town Clerk for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint the following: Daniel Dorgan as Municipal Hearing Officer, Todd Correia as Oil Spill Coordinator and Elisabeth Horan as Parking Clerk for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint the following Todd Correia, Tara Kohler, Rick Forand, Vincent Furtado, Marc Jodoin, Daniel Dorgan and David Flaherty to the Local Emergency Planning Group for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Belonging Committee

Mr. Silvia asked for a hold due to violations of the social media policy by Jessica Fidalgo. He referred to copies of the handbook acknowledgement forms signed by Ms. Fidalgo available in the Town Clerk's Office.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Alliea Group, Laura Barilaro, Rachel Medeiros and Kelly Ochoa to the Belonging Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to appoint Jessica Fidalgo to the Belonging Committee for a term through May, 2026. No second on the motion. The motion failed.

Discussion ensued as to inviting any member from a board in if there is a concern on policies. Mr. Samia has reached out to Ms. Fidalgo and will check back. Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Samia to invite Ms. Fidalgo to the next meeting and table the appointment at this time.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to table Jessica Fidalgo's appointment to the Belonging Committee to the next meeting. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed (4-1-0) Mr. Silvia opposed.

Appointment Requests: New, Various Board, Committee and Commissions

Public Safety Complex Committee

All candidates who submitted applications were invited to the meeting and those present or attending via zoom were invited to address the Board.

Cameron Durant, Marc Jodoin, Kenny Rogers Paulino, Patrick Carr, Seth Baumgartner and Cathy Melanson individually provided a summary of their background, interest and qualifications. The Board asked clarifying questions to each candidate.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Seth Baumgartner. Ms. Mello seconded. Mr. Romano rescinded his nomination and Ms. Mello rescinded her second.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Seth Baumgartner to the Public Safety Complex Committee for a term through completion. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Silvia motioned to appoint Patrick Carr to the Public Safety Complex Committee for a term through completion. Mr. Murphy seconded. The motion failed (2-2-1) Mr. Romano and Ms. Mello opposed and Mr. Saunders abstained.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to appoint Cameron Durant to the Public Safety Complex Committee for a term through completion. Mr. Romano seconded.

Discussion ensued about the perceived conflict of interest due to Mr. Durant's position as the Town Administrator in Rochester, MA. Mr. Durant advised the Board that he contacted State Ethics and they advised no conflict due to no compensation with the appointment. Mr. Durant said he also contacted the Massachusetts Municipal Managers Association for an opinion and was advised that he can be an advisory committee member.

Mr. Romano rescinded his nomination for Cameron Durant and Ms. Mello rescinded her second.

Motion: Mr. Silvia motioned to appoint Steve Riley to the Public Safety Complex Committee for a term through completion. No second on the motion. The motion failed.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Kenny Rogers Paulino to the Public Safety Complex Committee for a term through completion. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to appoint Marc Jodoin to the Public Safety Complex Committee for a term through completion. Mr. Romano seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Agricultural Commission

This Commission has been inactive, no current members or liaisons. Discussion ensued as to reactivation with interest and whether the Town is required to have this Commission. Mr. Silvia was approached by another interested resident and will ask them to apply.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Sarah Lake to the Agricultural Commission for a term through May, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Economic Development Committee

There are currently no vacancies, no action taken.

Historical Commission

Eleanor Chew addressed the Board and provided a summary of her background, interests and qualifications.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Eleanor Chew to the Historical Commission for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee

The Board reviewed the applications and that there is no residency requirement for ad-hoc advisory boards. To stagger the membership terms, it was recommended to have one-year terms for these three appointments.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Alice Torres to the Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Community and Economic Development Coordinator Alyssa Botelho addressed the Board via zoom and recommended Elizabeth Khoury for appointment.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Elizabeth Khoury to the Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to appoint Jenn Seco to the Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee for a term through May, 2026. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Livable Streets Committee

Roger Sicotte addressed the Board and provided a summary of his background, interests and qualifications.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Roger Sicotte and Jonathan Camara to the Livable Streets Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Board requested the office research the membership limit on the Committee.

Rogers Reuse Committee

The current openings for the Committee are for liaisons from Economic Development (EDC), the Planning Board and the Finance Committee. Ms. Melanson will seek the EDC liaison through the EDC.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

Resource Lighting and Energy (RLE): Electric Vehicle Charging Station Proposal

Jon Scavone addressed the Board via zoom as a follow up to a prior presentation to the Select Board. Mr. Scavone presented to the Department Heads in April and has an upcoming presentation to the School Committee.

Discussion ensued as to the seven properties listed: West Island Beach, Cushman Park, Fort Phoenix, Public Works, Recreation Center, Dana Court and Oxford Residences. The Board pointed out that the Fairhaven Housing Authority has purview over the Dana Court and Oxford Residences locations. Discussion included contract provisions to protect the Town, responsibility for equipment removal cost, financial aspects of the agreement, how the payment is made and the state reimbursement process, RLE versus manufacturer's warranty and annual revenue projections. The Board asked Mr. Samia to review the financials of the agreement and also engage Town Counsel.

Conservation and Sustainability Coordinator Kelly Camara addressed the Board via zoom and said she contacted companies that RLE has installed EV chargers for and received all positive feedback. Mr. Scavone asked the Board to consider a vote to approve pending the reviews discussed.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to postpone until the language in the contracts is reviewed. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Samia will review with Ms. Camara and Mr. Scavone. The item will be on the next agenda.

Building Permit Fee Waiver Request: School

Mr. Samia addressed the Board and referred to the process the Building Commissioner asked the Board to adopt for requests to waive permit fees be presented to the Board on a case by case basis. School Superintendent Tara Kohler submitted a request regarding various projects at the High School and the Building Department provided a list of charges associated with the schools (***Attachment B***). Mr. Samia recommended the Board look at the current fiscal year only and clarify what was paid by the school.

Discussion ensued as to the prior discussion on permit fees, waivers, budgetary discipline, past processes, potential Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funded projects, current and future projects and the need for clarification on actual charges.

Brian Monroe addressed the Board via zoom, he said that this was not the process before and to change the policy without notice was not fair.

Patrick Carr of Pleasant Street addressed the Board and said in conversation with the Building Commissioner, if grant funds cover permit fees and are built in, all the money should go to the Town under the project.

Mr. Monroe advised the Board that Superintendent Kohler was on her way to Town Hall. Discussion was suspended.

Atlas Tack Working Group Creation

Mr. Silvia attended a sign unveiling at the Atlas Tack property that was presented by representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) who recommended a working group be created to look at removing the building that remains on the property.

Discussion ensued about creating a working group, roles and responsibilities of a working group versus an ad-hoc committee, holding public meetings, application process for interested volunteers, concerns about legacy contamination and engaging the land owner and DEP to review. Mr. Silvia volunteered as Select Board liaison.

Cathy Melanson of Adams Street addressed the Board and described a working group's role as an information gathering group that would not vote, not post or plan meetings but gather and present to the Select Board ahead of any public hearings.

Doug Brady of Pleasant Street addressed the Board and said the event was well attended including Representative Mark Sylvia. Mr. Brady thanked Mr. Silvia for adding this to the agenda and recommended a working group to gather the facts and to present a fact sheet, the working group would not need quorums and would just gather information only.

Bob Espindola addressed the Board via zoom and recommended that before forming a working group, the Board establish a mission; gathering information is not specific enough and he recommended reviewing Town records or with Town Counsel. A mission outlines who has authority from the committee without limitations.

Mr. Murphy recommended Mr. Silvia and Mr. Samia review and present at the next meeting.

Brian Messier of Pleasant Street addressed the Board via zoom and said he has lived across the street for many years, is retired and would like to provide input.

Building Permit Fee Waiver Request: School (cont.)

Superintendent Kohler addressed the Board and said she requested the waiver of fees after meeting with the Building Commissioner about school inspections at the schools that had to be paid with a credit card up front. Previously there were no fees. The gable project is through borrowing and the estimated fees are estimated at between twenty to one-hundred thousand dollars. This amount was not part of the budget for the gable project. The window project through CPC funds did not include any permit fees. Supt. Kohler said there was no communication on the change in the fee structure and asked that any project in process follow past practice.

Mr. Samia added that there are projects where the funds come from an outside source and that clarification was needed on the projects and fees in question.

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to waive fees for existing projects. Mr. Romano seconded. The motion passed (3-2-0) Mr. Saunders and Mr. Silvia opposed.

Member Removal Request: Historical Commission

The Board reviewed the request from the Historical Commission.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to remove Nicole Arruda from the Historical Commission effective immediately. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Samia reported:

- Staffing Update: Bernadette Barreira started as the Recreation Center Director.
- Fairhaven TV received the National Hometown Media Award for the High School Tour Video, a press release was sent (*Attachment C*)
Alyssa Botelho addressed the Board via zoom on behalf of Media Director Derek Frates and his team. She said this is Fairhaven TV's third national aware in the last four years. The aware ceremony is in Boston on June 25th.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders had no report:

Ms. Mello reported:

- The Fort Phoenix flagpole is up and a flag raising ceremony is planned for May 31st at 11 am. The Library meeting is June 17th.

Mr. Murphy reported:

- Congratulations to Randy Durrigan who was recognized by Representative Sylvia for Military Appreciation Day (*Attachment D*).
- The Sister City Committee met, the Carriage House project is moving forward. Mr. Rooney is still working through his recent health issues.
- Lagoa met and discussed future goals.
- The Fairhaven Father's Day Road Race is on June 15th and a flyer is posted at Town Hall.

Mr. Romano reported:

- Thank you to Veteran Service Officer Mike Jenney for the parade.
- He will be away for graduation but will attend Junior Day
- He attended a civic engagement event with Eighth Graders who have been tasked with a civic engagement project to impact the community.

Mr. Silvia reported:

- The Commission on Disability met, there are openings for volunteers
- The Economic Development Committee have scheduled after-hours events. John Hinds will have a demonstration at the next Harborfest event for Jaws 50th Anniversary on June 21st.

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the open session minutes of April 28, 2025, May 3, 2025 and May 12, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the executive session minutes of April 28, 2025 and May 12, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Contact Form: Michelle Costen

Contact Form: Tracy Travers

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting is ***Monday, June 9, 2025*** at 6:30pm

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Contact Form: Tracy Travers and Campaign Finance Report
- B. Request for waiver of permit fees: School and Building Department review
- C. Press Release: Fairhaven TV Award
- D. Press Release: Inaugural Military Appreciation Day Recognition: Randall Durrigan

Meeting adjourned at 10:36p.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Select Board Clerk (ah)

Approved on June 9, 2025

Attachment A

Tracy A. Travers
25 Union Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

May 22, 2025

To the Interim Town Administrator & Chair of the Selectboard
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Dear Mr. Samia & Mr. Murphy,

My name is Tracy Travers, and I have been a citizen of Fairhaven for approximately 40 years. I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding the Select Board meeting on May 12th. During the Appointments and Community Items section of the meeting, the Select Board interviewed three candidates for the full voting member position on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Select Board Clerk, Natalie Mello asked Zoning Board of Appeals candidate, Mrs. Cathy Melanson the following question, "I'm just curious, last time I heard you speak publicly, you said you were looking forward to spending time with your grandchildren, which I can relate to, so what prompted you to put your name forward at this time? I thought you were looking forward to that, so why are you putting your name in for this now? You have a well-deserved rest." The position being interviewed for has to do with detailed knowledge and experience within the town's zoning bylaws. Ms. Mello did not ask one question regarding her experience or knowledge but focused her questioning /comments solely on why she wanted to apply now, instead of spending time with her grandchildren. What does this questioning have to do with the position? This is completely out of line and not reflective of how a Select Board member should decide on appointments.

Personal questions referring to a candidate's family obligations are generally illegal as they can be used to infer lack of reliability. Further, neither male ZBA candidate was asked any questions referring to their family or time commitment. It is inappropriate to solicit information about protected characteristics like race, religion, age, sex, disability or family/marital status. This line of questioning reflects poorly on all women, especially those in town government, and those who choose to serve our community in the future.

In researching the board's appointee, Mr. Geoffrey Sullivan, it was discovered he was a financial contributor to Ms. Mello's campaign when she recently ran for and won a seat on the Select Board. He was also pictured as a supporter holding her campaign signs. That night, Ms. Mello first nominated Mr. Sullivan to serve on the ZBA, then voted for him. Prior to the vote, Ms. Mello made no verbal mention nor disclosure of these issues to the entire Select Board nor the public. Further, the two other candidates had substantially more experience and training. The ZBA's goal is to uphold the *integrity* of Fairhaven's zoning laws. I fear this is a clear case of quid pro quo and has resulted in influence over this decision by Ms. Mello.

I kindly request that this letter be read into record, the Select Board investigates this matter, and takes appropriate corrective action such as, but not limited to, rescinding the vote for the ZBA full voting member candidate, making Mr. Sullivan an associate member. This action will allow time for fair and proper reconsideration and vetting of the current four associate members, as well as Mrs. Melanson & Mr. Kendall. I also ask that Ms. Mello recuse herself during the vote due to her clear conflict in this matter.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and I look forward to your response. I can be reached at tracytravers@comcast.net or 774-263-4905.

Tracy A. Travers, BS, MEd



Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

Form CPF M 102: Campaign Finance Report Municipal Form

Office of Campaign and Political Finance

File with: City or Town Clerk or Election Commission

Fill in Reporting Period dates: Beginning Date: 1/1/2025 Ending Date: 3/21/2025

Type of Report: (Check one)

☐ 8th day preceding preliminary ☒ 8th day preceding election ☐ 30 day after election ☐ year-end report ☐ dissolution

Natalie A. Mello

Candidate Full Name (if applicable)

Select Board Member - Fairhaven

Office Sought and District

5 Fort St., Fairhaven, MA 02719

Residential Address

E-mail: Melloforfairhaven@gmail.com

Phone #: 717-462-0411

Committee to Elect Natalie A. Mello

Committee Name

Carolyn Nuñez

Name of Committee Treasurer

33 William St, Fairhaven, MA

Committee Mailing Address

E-mail: carolyn.nunez123@gmail.com

Phone #: 214 770-0129

SUMMARY BALANCE INFORMATION:

Line 1: Ending Balance from previous report	<u>0</u>
Line 2: Total receipts this period (page 3, line 12)	<u>\$5,205</u>
Line 3: Subtotal (line 1 plus line 2)	<u>\$5,205</u>
Line 4: Total expenditures this period (page 5, line 15)	<u>\$2,894.58</u>
Line 5: Ending Balance (line 3 minus line 4)	<u>\$2,310.42</u>
Line 6: Total in-kind contributions this period (page 6, line 18)	<u>700</u>
Line 7: Total (all) outstanding liabilities (page 7, line 19)	<u>0</u>
Line 8: Total out-of-pocket expenses this period (page 8, line 22)	<u>\$300</u>
Line 9: Name of bank(s) used:	<u>Rockland Trust</u>

Affidavit of Committee Treasurer:

I certify that I have examined this report including attached schedules and it is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and complete statement of all campaign finance activity, including all contributions, loans, receipts, expenditures, disbursements, in-kind contributions and liabilities for this reporting period and represents the campaign finance activity of all persons acting under the authority or on behalf of this committee in accordance with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 55.

Signed under the penalties of perjury:

Carolyn Nuñez

(Treasurer's signature)

Date: 3/31/25

FOR CANDIDATE FILINGS ONLY: Affidavit of Candidate: (check 1 box only)

Candidate with Committee

☒ I certify that I have examined this report including attached schedules and it is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and complete statement of all campaign finance activity, of all persons acting under the authority or on behalf of this committee in accordance with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 55. I have not received any contributions, incurred any liabilities nor made any expenditures on my behalf during this reporting period that are not otherwise disclosed in this report.

Candidate without Committee

☐ I certify that I have examined this report including attached schedules and it is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and complete statement of all campaign finance activity, including contributions, loans, receipts, expenditures, disbursements, in-kind contributions and liabilities for this reporting period and represents the campaign finance activity of all persons acting under the authority or on behalf of this candidate in accordance with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 55.

Signed under the penalties of perjury:

Natalie A. Mello

(Candidate's signature)

Date: 3/31/25

SCHEDULE A: RECEIPTS

Date Received	Name & Residential Address						Amount	Occupation & Employer (for contributions of \$200 or more)
02/10/2025	Mark	Badwey	40 Winsegansett St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
01/22/2025	Denise	Barr	19 Adams Street	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
02/09/2025	Stephan	Becker	54 Church St	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 75.00	
02/09/2025	Deb	Becker	54 Church St	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 75.00	
01/15/2025	Nate	Bekemeier	354 Huttleston Ave.	MA	MA	02719	\$ 80.00	
02/24/2025	Alice	Brewer	354 Huttleston Ave.	MA	MA	02719	\$ 80.00	
02/10/2025	Gail	Costello	13 Fort St	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 160.00	
02/03/2025	Janet	Cromer	99 Green St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
02/18/2025	Tom	Crotty	7 Fort Street	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 60.00	
02/12/2025	John	Crowley	52 Green St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 80.00	
02/12/2025	Tina	Crowley	52 Green St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 80.00	
02/20/2025	Ann	Espindola	1 John St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 160.00	
02/20/2025	Vanessa	Graltton	PO Box 208	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 85.00	
02/16/2025	Bruce	Gratz	140 Main Street	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 80.00	
01/23/2025	Deirdre	Healy	2 Lafayette St	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
02/12/2025	Cynthia	Johnson	PO Box 650	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 80.00	
01/25/2025	Michael	Kelly	208 Mill St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 150.00	
03/10/2025	Lynn	Mason	PO Box 773	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 60.00	
03/10/2025	David	Mason	PO Box 773	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 60.00	
01/22/2025	Charles	Mello	16 Mechanic St.	Mattapoisett	MA	02739	\$ 100.00	
01/24/2025	Brian	Messier	82 Pleasant St	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
02/24/2025	Matthew	Montiero	590 New Bedford Rd.	Rochester	MA	02770	\$ 130.00	
01/13/2025	Carolyn	Nunez	33 William St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
02/10/2025	Carol	Oliva	84 Green Street	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 60.00	
03/11/2025	Mary	O'Sullivan	53 Church St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
01/22/2025	Diana	Painter	14 William St	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
01/30/2025	Stasia	Powers	296 Mill Road	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 130.00	
02/21/2025	Mark	Rees	86 Fort St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
02/15/2025	Ann	Richard	46 Hedge street	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 60.00	
01/22/2025	Ann	Richard	46 Hedge street	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
01/13/2025	Andrew	Romano	440 Bridge St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 130.00	
02/22/2025	Michael	Sherman	4 Lafayette St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 67.50	
02/22/2025	Sandy	Sherman	4 Lafayette St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 67.50	
02/16/2025	Anne	Smith	140 Main Street	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 80.00	
02/24/2025	Susan	Spooner	15 Baxter Ave.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 75.00	
03/08/2025	Geoffrey	Sullivan	14 Reservation Rd	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 55.00	
02/03/2025	Kari	Tyler	52 William St	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 100.00	
02/21/2025	Joanna	Weeks	73 Raymond Street	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 60.00	
02/16/2025	Jessica	Wilder	40 Center St.	Fairhaven,	MA	02719	\$ 60.00	

\$ 3,540.00



Fairhaven Select...



Attachment B

Re: Fee waiver request

1 message

Suzanne Vieira <svieira@fairhaven-ma.gov>

To: Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Thu, May 22, 2025 at 4:07 PM

I am sorry, I was going to fast for permit eyes there are only 2

Permit #R-24-0174 [12 Huttleston](#) \$1.00

Permit #R-24-0368 [60 Sconticut Neck Rd](#) \$1.00

Thank you,

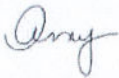
Suzanne Vieira

Administrative Assistant To The Director Of Inspectional Services Town Hall of Fairhaven

On Thu, May 22, 2025 at 3:47 PM Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:

Thank you for the info, can you list the 5 that were \$1 each?

Warmest regards,



Amy Hart

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator
(508) 979-4023, Ext. 8101

On Thu, May 22, 2025 at 12:50 PM Suzanne Vieira <svieira@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:

What they actually paid out of pocket is \$22,101 — paid by the contractor not the school

What was waived \$14,088 (a lot we used to just put in as a \$1.00 to waive so there were 5 of those FY 25)

Thank you,

Suzanne Vieira

Administrative Assistant To The Director Of Inspectional Services
Town Hall of Fairhaven

On Thu, May 22, 2025 at 12:21 PM Suzanne Vieira <svieira@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:

What they actually paid out of pocket is \$22,101

What was waived \$14,088 (a lot we used to just put in as a \$1.00 to waive so there were 5 of those FY 25)

Thank you,

Suzanne Vieira

On Thu, May 22, 2025 at 12:15 PM Suzanne Vieira <svieira@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:

Do you want what they paid or waived or both?

Thank you,

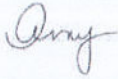
Suzanne Vieira

Administrative Assistant To The Director Of Inspectional Services Town Hall of Fairhaven
Building Department

On Thu, May 22, 2025 at 12:05 PM Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:
Suzanne,

Can you verify amounts charged in the current fiscal year to the School?

Warmest regards,



Amy Hart
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator
(508) 979-4023, Ext. 8101

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tara Kohler <tkohler@fairhavenps.net>
Date: Thu, May 22, 2025 at 11:40 AM
Subject: Fee waiver request
To: George Samia <TownAdmin@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>
Cc: Colin Veitch <cveitch@fairhavenps.net>, Brian Monroe <bmonroe@fairhavenps.net>, Nikki V. Potter <npotter@fairhavenps.net>, Mark Balestracci <mbalestracci@fairhavenps.net>

Hi George and Amy,

As we discussed yesterday, we are asking for the following waivers due to the change in practice regarding building fees. Up until a week ago, the building department did not charge us for permits or inspections. As a result, Mr. Forand recommended requesting a waiver from the select board. We are respectfully requesting a waiver of fees for the following:

- Phase one of the Fairhaven High School Gable project will start in June. This fee of \$21,000 is substantial compared to our reserve amount on the project.
- Wood window restoration project at Fairhaven High School.
- Any additional permitting related to the storage facility at FHS.
- Annual inspections at each school building. We are requesting a reimbursement of the recent \$150 we had to put on the town credit card to have those done.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
Tara



Tara M. Kohler
Superintendent of Schools at Fairhaven Public School District

P 508-979-4000 W www.fairhavenps.org

E tkohler@fairhavenps.net Q "Do what you feel in your heart to be right – for you'll be criticized anyway." — Eleanor Roosevelt

IMPORTANT: The contents of this email and any attachments are confidential. They are intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you have received this email by mistake, please notify the sender immediately and do not disclose the contents to anyone or make copies thereof.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2025

Fairhaven TV Wins National Hometown Media Award for High School Tour Video

Fairhaven, MA — Fairhaven TV has been named a winner of the **2025 Hometown Media Award** by the **Alliance for Community Media Foundation**, receiving national recognition in the **Educational Profile category (Access Center Professional Division)** for its production of *"The History of the Castle on the Hill."*

The award-winning video offers a guided tour of **Fairhaven High School**, widely known as one of the most beautiful high schools in the United States. The production showcases the historic architecture and rich legacy of the school through an in-depth walking tour led by **Robert Foster** of the **Fairhaven High School Alumni Association**.

This achievement marks the **third national award for Fairhaven TV in the past four years**, underscoring its continued dedication to community storytelling and educational media. Fairhaven TV Director **Derek Frates** shared his thoughts on the achievement:

*"This award in particular represents a culmination of the hard work our staff puts in day in and day out to support the local community. It was truly a team effort, specifically from our editors **Erick Sa** and **Nick Doyle**, who put in months of research, filming, and editing, including the retrieval of archived photos helped elevate this tour to a new level in video production to bring this project to fruition."*

Frates also extended thanks to **Robert Foster**, host of the video and representative of the Fairhaven High School Alumni Association:

"Robert has coordinated this walking tour for years, and his deep knowledge and passion for the school added incredible value."

Robert added:

"The Alumni Association is thrilled with the response from our alumni as well as the general public. We've heard from alums all around the country who have been able to share their beautiful high school with their family and friends who have never had the privilege of being able to visit the school in person."

Since its release, *The History of the Castle on the Hill* has become Fairhaven TV's most-viewed video, surpassing 10,000 views on YouTube and Facebook combined. Promotional reels featuring clips from the film have reached over 40,000 views across Facebook and Instagram.

The award will be formally presented at the **2025 ACM National Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, on June 25, 2025.**

For more information about Fairhaven TV or to watch the award-winning video, visit fairhaventv.com or follow Fairhaven TV on social media.

Each year, nearly one thousand entries are submitted to the Hometown Media Awards. These entries, or programs, are submitted and evaluated on several factors resulting in over 100 award winners. A panel of over 150 judges from the industry evaluate the entries. Awards are presented to the most creative programs that address community needs, develop diverse community involvement, challenge conventional commercial television formats, and move viewers to experience television in a different way.

“The Hometown Media Awards celebrate both the excellence of work and the diversity of media that appears on community channels being produced around the country. The ACM Foundation is proud of their achievement and of how they represent their communities in their work,” says Mike Wassenaar, president & CEO, Alliance for Community Media.

About the Alliance for Community Media (www.allcommunitymedia.org)

Founded in 1979, the Alliance for Community Media is a national, non-profit membership organization committed to ensuring access to electronic media for all people. The Alliance for Community Media carries forth its mission by educating, advocating and acting as a resource for the more than 3,000 Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) cable channels nationwide.

Media Contact:

Derek Frates

Director, Fairhaven TV

Email: dfrates@fairhaven-ma.gov

Phone: 774-328-0041

Website: <https://www.fairhaventv.com>

FTV YouTube: www.youtube.com/@Fairhaven_TV

FTV Facebook: www.facebook.com/fairhaventv

FTV Instagram: www.instagram.com/fairhaven_tv



All Posts News How I Voted Events Press Release



Administrator

1 hour ago · 3 min read

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARK SYLVIA HONORS RANDALL DURRIGAN AT INAUGURAL STATEWIDE MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY



State Rep Mark Sylvia, Randy Durrigan, and his wife, Donna Durrigan

BOSTON – State Representative Mark Sylvia (D-Fairhaven) proudly honored Randall Durrigan of Fairhaven today at the first-ever Military Appreciation Day ceremony held in the Massachusetts State House's historic House Chamber.

Military Appreciation Day was created by the Healey-Driscoll Administration to establish a lasting annual tradition that brings together local, state, and community leaders to honor those whose service might otherwise go unrecognized. Each legislator was invited to nominate a member of their local military community—whether a veteran, active-duty service member, National Guard, Reservist, or military spouse—to be honored during the ceremony. More than 125 individuals who exemplify commitment to service and community were recognized from districts across Massachusetts.

"I'm proud to recognize Randy Durrigan for his service to our country in the U.S. Air Force from 1962 to 1966, for his involvement in local government and veterans organizations and for his dedication to helping his fellow veterans as a Veterans Service Officer, said Rep. Sylvia "His contributions reflect the strength, resilience, and dedication of our local military community, and I'm honored to celebrate him at this statewide event."

The ceremony featured remarks from Governor Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Veterans Services Secretary Jon Santiago, Senate

President Karen Spilka, and a keynote address by General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. (Ret.), former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and 36th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

"This event is about gratitude," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're here to honor the everyday heroes—veterans, active-duty service members, and military families—whose courage, strength, and commitment continue to shape our state for the better. Military Appreciation Day is now a Massachusetts tradition and one we'll proudly carry forward each year."

"Massachusetts is home to one of the most vibrant, committed military communities in the country," said Lieutenant Governor Kim

"Every day, I meet veterans and military families who continue to lead, serve, and inspire," said Secretary Jon Santiago. "As we approach Memorial Day, and during a month dedicated to honoring our military, this event reflects what makes Massachusetts special: a deep respect for service, and a commitment to those who wear the uniform—and those who stand beside them."

"My father's service in the United States Army defined his life and deeply shaped my own — and I know the same holds true for thousands of service members and their families across Massachusetts," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland).

"It is a privilege to honor those residents who have dedicated themselves to serving our country, and I am profoundly grateful for their unwavering commitment and sacrifice."

"It is an honor to host the inaugural Military Appreciation Day in the historic House Chamber," said Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano. "This new tradition reflects our deep appreciation for the veterans, service members, and military families who strengthen every corner of our Commonwealth."

The keynote address was delivered by General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. (Ret.), former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and 36th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. A Boston native and one of the most distinguished military leaders in recent history, General Dunford spoke about the legacy of service, leadership, and community and the importance of honoring those who serve across generations.

"It's an honor to return home to Massachusetts and stand alongside a community so deeply committed to those who serve. Military Appreciation Day reflects something I've long believed: that service is not just what we do in uniform—it's a lifetime of leadership, character, and sacrifice," said General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. (Ret.), 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I'm proud to join the Commonwealth in recognizing these remarkable individuals and the values they represent."

The program also featured a powerful performance of the National Anthem by Springfield native and NBC's *The Voice* finalist Michelle Brooks-Thompson. Following the ceremony, honorees and guests were invited to a lunch reception generously donated by the Military Friends Foundation, a Massachusetts nonprofit dedicated to providing support and emergency assistance to military families and families of the fallen.



To view the full list of 2025 Military Appreciation Day honorees, [click here](#).