



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2025

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
JUL 23 2025

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

Mr. Murphy opened the meeting at 6:30pm

JOINT WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Members present: Padraic Elliot, Claire Millette, Robert Grindrod, Ken Blanchard, Stephen Levesque, Peter Gardner and Chris Fidalgo. **Not Present:** David Patterson, James Souza, Steve Riley, Patricia Pacella and Linda Gallant

Mr. Elliot opened the Finance Committee meeting at 6:32pm and stated the Finance Committee will adjourn following the Year-end transfer item.

Approval of Year-end Transfers

Town Clerk Department/Elections

Anne Carreiro addressed the Board and reviewed the details of the transfer request from the Town Clerk; the total is from a clerical buyout of time covered by the Clerical Collective Bargaining Agreement and a state mandated and non-reimbursable mass-inactivation process. The process involves a two-part mailing to individuals that did not respond to the census and were marked inactive on the voting list.

Ms. Carreiro advised the balance in the wind turbine account is approximately one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars (\$185,000). The Board and Finance Committee asked clarifying questions about eligibility for the payout under the personnel policy, the refund of fourteen thousand five-hundred ninety-eight dollars and thirty-five cents that was transferred to the General Fund from the Division of Local Mandates for Early Voting and any penalties to individuals that respond inaccurately. The refund cannot be moved to cover this expense and was transferred to the General Fund.

Select Board Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to transfer \$23,158.00 from the Wind Turbine account ending in 1227 to the Town Clerk Department and Election & Registration accounts as requested and stated on the form. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Finance Committee Motion: Mr. Grindrod motioned to transfer \$23,158.00 from the Wind Turbine account ending in 1227 to the Town Clerk Department and Election & Registration accounts as requested and stated on the form. Ms. Millette seconded. The motion passed unanimously (7-0-0).

Treasurer

Ms. Carreiro reviewed the transfer request from the Treasurer's Department is to cover Appellate Tax Board (ATB) cases that were settled dating back to 2020, if the appeal is won, the Town is responsible to pay back with eight percent interest (8%). The Board and Finance Committee asked clarifying questions about the time to resolve and any remaining cases. Ms. Carreiro said the time it took is based on the court system and any remaining cases would be from 2023 to present and she can confirm with the Assessor.

Select Board Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to transfer \$7,559.00 from the Wind Turbine account ending in 1227 to the Treasurer Department account as requested and stated on the form. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Finance Committee Motion: Ms. Millette motioned to transfer \$7,559.00 from the Wind Turbine account ending in 1227 to the Treasurer Department account ending 0121 as requested and stated on the form. Mr. Grindrod seconded. The motion passed unanimously (7-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristen Russell of Washington Street addressed the Board about the recent Full Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) appointment. Ms. Russell explained her roll as the most senior Associate member of ZBA, concerns about the recent ZBA appointment process and asked the Board to reconsider the appointment to allow her to apply.

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

Special One-Day Beer and Wine License: Lion's Club Day of Portugal, Saturday, August 23, 2025 5-9pm

Elizabeth Gallagher, President of the Lion's Club addressed the Board and explained the application. The Club is hosting a Day of Portugal and will have a toast with Madeira wine.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Special One-Day Beer and Wine License: Lion's Club Day of Portugal, Saturday, August 23, 2025 5-9pm. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Our Lady of Angels 95th Annual Feast, Saturday, August 30, 2025 5pm-12am, Sunday, August 31, 2025 12pm-12am and Monday, September 1, 2025 12-10pm

Lt. Kevin Swain and Our Lady of Angels President (OLOA) John Barbosa addressed the Board. Lt. Swain reviewed the concerns from the incident in 2024 outside of the feast grounds and the work the Fairhaven Police has done with the OLOA Feast Committee to develop a security plan with recommendations for ingress and egress, metal detectors, cameras, identification verification bracelets for games and alcohol consumption.

Discussion ensued with the Board regarding the recommendations, metal detectors, liability, wrist band changes each day, identification (ID) scanners and data retention, the 2024 shooting incident off the feast grounds, potential scenarios if issues at the entrance occur and police support for volunteers if needed. Mr. Barbosa said he will have the Committee purchase a metal detector machine.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Our Lady of Angels 95th Annual Feast, Saturday, August 30, 2025 5pm-12am, Sunday, August 31, 2025 12pm-12am and Monday, September 1, 2025 12-10pm. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Historical Commission

Mr. Murphy reviewed the appointment tonight will be one member for a two-year term and that the recent resignation will be announced tonight and posted so that applications can be submitted for consideration at the next meeting per the process. Mr. Romano made a brief statement about correspondence received from the Historical Commission over the weekend, the Select Board's protocol regarding responses to emails and that the Board does take the matter very seriously. He added that Mr. Samia and Town Counsel have been reviewing it and thanked the Commission as well as all Town volunteers.

Applications received from Patrick Carr, Alexander Kuechler, Ben Hevey and Jay Lanagan and Mr. Murphy called each in order to address the Board about their application, interest and background.

Mr. Carr addressed the Board; he apologized for interrupting Public Comment and made a statement about a procedural matter regarding the Historical Commission revising their July 10, 2025 agenda at 4:59pm for the 5:15pm meeting that evening. He said no public comment was taken, no candidates were told about the meeting or given the opportunity to speak about their applications. Mr. Carr added that the Historical Commission took an unprecedented vote to recommend a candidate and he distributed the Select Board's statement to Town Board, Committee and Commission Members and referred to item four (*Attachment A*). Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Carr for bringing the concern to the Board's attention and that the Select Board is the appointing authority.

Mr. Kuechler, Mr. Hevey and Mr. Lanagan each addressed the Board about their application, experience and interest in the Historical Commission. The Board clarified the number of appointments tonight and term length, the next agenda will have an additional opportunity based on a recent resignation.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Alexander Kuechler to the Historical Commission for a term through May, 2027. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Atlas Tack Working Group (ATWG)

Mr. Silvia reported about the first meeting of the ATWG and that the group would like to remain as small as possible.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Patrick Carr to the Atlas Tack Working Group. Mr. Silvia seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Saunders abstained.

Motion: Mr. Murphy motioned to appoint Patricia Estrella to the Atlas Tack Working Group. Mr. Silvia seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to appoint Jason Lanagan to the Atlas Tack Working Group. Mr. Romano seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Board discussed concerns about potential conflict of interest for Mr. Lanagan due to being a developer and the suggestion was that Mr. Lanagan assess and contact state ethics. The Board also said no additional members will be added

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned that the Atlas Tack Working Group has been filled. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Commission on Disability

Kerri Cummins addressed the Board via zoom about her application and interest in the Commission on Disability.

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

Appointment Request: Council on Aging

Nancy Santoro addressed the Board about her application and interest in the Council on Aging Board.

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

Term Correction: Cultural Council: Alexandra Mitchell

The Board reviewed the request.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to update the term for Cultural Council member Alexandra Mitchell to expire May, 2027. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

ACTION/DISCUSSION

Ratify Town Administrator Contract

This item was tabled

Economic Development Committee (EDC) Mission Statement Update

Cathy Melanson Chair of the EDC addressed the Board about a proposed update to the EDC's Mission Statement (*Attachment B*). She referred to the reorganization of departments and the removal of Economic Development from Planning. She added that, due to this change and no ties to economic development, there is no longer a need for a Planning Board member to be a representative on the EDC, the current Planning Board representative can remain until the end of the current term.

Jessica Fidalgo of Union Street addressed the Board and suggested the Board review the Land Use and Planning Mission Statement prior to changing the mission statement and makeup of EDC because there are references to economic development.

Ms. Melanson asked the Board to move forward with the change stating they are under Community Development,

also known as Discover Fairhaven. She said there was a unanimous vote of EDC to change the mission statement and remove the Planning Board representative including the Planning Board representative Mr. Grant. Discussion ensued to clarify the request from EDC.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to update the mission statement of the Economic Development Committee as submitted and remove the Planning Board's representative. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Zoning Board of Appeals Promotion Process

Brief discussion ensued about the topic and whether the Board was being asked to reconsider past votes or about changing the process.

Mr. Murphy advised Mr. Carr to work with Ms. Hart for this agenda item for the next agenda.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to table Zoning Board of Appeals Promotion Process to the next meeting. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

This item was tabled.

Request to Work Remotely During Fulbright Scholarship Abroad: Alyssa Botelho

Mr. Romano advised the Board that the prior financial relationship with Ms. Botelho through his real estate office ended. Ms. Botelho addressed the Board and explained the Fulbright Scholarship process, opportunity to work remotely and build the Sister City relationship with Lagoa. A plan is being set up for tasks like the Old Tyme Holiday and emails to be handled by other staff.

The Board congratulated Ms. Botelho on the opportunity and thanked her for her work.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the request to work remotely during the Fulbright Scholarship abroad for Alyssa Botelho. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Opioid Settlement Participation: Purdue Plan

Mr. Samia addressed the Board about this item and explained that Town Counsel reviews all opioid matters and monitors action needed for the phases.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to participate in the Opioid Settlement, Purdue Plan. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Rescind Liquor License Transfer: Southcoast Wine & Spirits

The sale was cancelled and the applicant asked the Board to rescind the approval.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to rescind the Liquor License Transfer for Southcoast Wine & Spirits to Jason Silva as requested. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Request to use Rogers School Parking Lot: Huttleston Harborfest Events

The Board reviewed the request and discussed concerns about whether there are enough spots to use. Mr. Silvia explained how the Homecoming Committee used it and that there is enough space for at least one hundred cars. Fairhaven TV showed an aerial view of the lot and Rogers School.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the request to use Rogers School Parking Lot: Huttleston Harborfest Events on July 19, 2025, August 23, 2025 and September 20, 2025 as requested. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Samia reported:

- Michael Kelly resigned from the Historical Commission and thanked him for his time and work. The opening created will be placed on the next Select Board agenda and those who applied for tonight will be asked if they want to apply. Mr. Silvia asked if Mr. Samia can mediate between the parties to see if Mr. Kelly would like to remain on the Commission.
- A meeting was held with Eversource, Public Works, Town Hall staff and Mr. Murphy about the process for poll petitions. The discussion included the overall process and communication to ensure all information is provided, Public Works will review first and make recommendation to the Board prior to the Board's Public Hearing.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders reported:

- Livable Streets has had preliminary discussions on eBikes and concerns due to the different classes like pedal assist and throttle eBikes. Livable Streets is looking at the different topics. Mr. Samia added that the state contacted him recently about the use of eBikes and complaints they received from the area of Fort Phoenix. Mr. Saunders said discussions are happening now to start the debate and be on the front end of it.

Ms. Mello reported:

- The Library has an upcoming meeting
- The Historical Commission met, the Commission discussed candidates and did vote, she did not participate in that discussion or agree to bring a recommendation forward. Alex Kuechler will be a great addition.
- Attended a meeting with the Town's Grant Consultant, Mr. Samia, Ms. Carreiro and Mr. Webb regarding current applications and other grant opportunities. She offered to be a liaison and participate in future discussions

Mr. Murphy reported:

- He has connected Ms. Botelho with the Eversource Community Relations Specialist Anthony Veilleux about potential grants
- Lagoa met

Mr. Romano reported:

- Sustainability has no meetings in July or August
- Belonging Committee has an upcoming meeting
- He applied for and was appointed by SRPEDD to the SMMPO
- Mr. Romano thanked Mr. and Mrs. Oliveira and Mr. Medeiros for their volunteer work organizing the 4th of July parade
- The Town has many volunteer groups and there seem to be a lot of "gotcha" attempts, if you have concerns, please bring to the appropriate contacts to be addressed. He suggested the Select Board make a statement based on what has been raised and while the Board has no control over what private citizens do or say, there is much respect for those willing to step up and serve. Ms. Mello added that the statement would be on expectations for people's behavior. Mr. Murphy said that Mr. Samia is working on a date with Town Counsel for board training including Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Silvia reported:

- The Commission on Disability will have an informational booth at the West Island Beach Friday, July 18, 2025. On October 12, 2025 the Commission will have an inclusive vendor fair at the Council on Aging.
- They are working on a bathroom trailer for Grimshaw Park as part of an ADA Grant.
- Atlas Tack Working Group met and will meet again this week.

MINUTES

Ms. Mello asked for a correction to the name "Eric" to be "Erin" in the June 23, 2025 minutes.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Open Session minutes of June 23, 2025 with the correction as

noted. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Open Session minutes of July 7, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Select Board Executive Session minutes of June 23, 2025 and July 7, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

- Contact forms: Michelle Costen (*Attachment C*)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting: *Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6:30pm*

Quote:

"Success in any partnership begins with mutual respect, clear expectations, and a shared commitment to the community we serve."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. (Fire Chief and Town Administrator) *AND*; Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (121 Main St.) *AND* not 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 at 8:49pm

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Handout: Patrick Carr
- B. Economic Development Committee Mission Statement change
- C. Contact Forms: Michelle Costen

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

Accepted on July 28, 2025



**Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts
Office of the Select Board**

40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

**Charles K. Murphy, Sr., Chair
Andrew Romano, Vice Chair
Natalie A. Mello, Clerk
Keith Silvia
Andrew B. Saunders**

Tel: (508) 979-4023
Fax: (508) 979-4079

May 13, 2025

**STATEMENT OF FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD TO TOWN BOARD, COMMISSION,
AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Select Board is concerned about the recent pattern of internal, personal conflicts within Town boards, commissions, and committees (hereinafter collectively referred to as "boards" or "multi-member bodies"), some of which have resulted in allegations of harassment, resignations, and legal costs. The Select Board is issuing this statement to all Town board members to remind you of your responsibilities to your fellow members, Town staff, and the public. A written copy of this statement will be provided to staff members who support each board and will be provided to the permanent Town Administrator when one is hired so that further steps may be taken to address these issues and move forward in a productive and efficient manner that serves the best interests of the Town.

1. Boards act as a whole. Members may not act individually.

Members are hereby reminded that you do not act individually. You may only act collectively at a duly posted meeting and in accordance with applicable laws on matters within your board's purview. No individual member's opinion or experience carries greater weight than any other. Business is to be conducted during meetings held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and not by individual members outside of meetings.

2. Department Heads report to the Town Administrator and Select Board, not to boards, commissions, or committees.

Department Heads and their respective staff may offer support to multi-member bodies but do not report to them. Boards, commissions, and committees should be mindful of demands on staff time and must at all times be respectful of staff members. No individual member of a multi-member body should give directives to staff members unless duly authorized. When individual board members communicate directly with Department Heads about substantive matters, they could be given information or services that are not given to other members. It also breaks the chain of command among the Town Administrator, the staff member, and the body as a whole, and could lead the staff member to feel a sense of obligation to a particular member. Individual

members may be designated by the collective body to serve as a liaison or to take the lead in administrative matters between meetings of the body, but information relevant to pending matters should be made available to the body as a whole and not to certain members individually.

3. Appointed board members report to their appointing authority and not to each other.

If you have a concern about the conduct of another board member, bring it to the Town Administrator to evaluate. The Town Administrator will address the matter as appropriate and may bring the matter to your appointing authority for consideration. You should use your time as a collective body to address the substantive matters within your purview and not to engage in personal matters, disputes, or conflicts. You do not have to agree with each other, but the focus of your discussions during meetings should be on the matters before you and in protecting and furthering the best interests of Fairhaven. There is no place for personal attacks, comments on another member's character, or disputes of a personal nature. As board members, you should be focused on the matter at hand and on issues within your respective board's jurisdiction.

4. Familiarize yourself with legal standards and vote on the merits.

The Conflict of Interest Law prohibits you from acting based on undue influence or personal bias. Your review of matters before you and your votes should be based on the merits of the application and its conformance to the applicable legal standards. You should not act based on personal preference, predetermined outcomes, friendships, bias, alliance, or political lines. You are entrusted to understand and apply the standards set forth in Town Bylaws which are adopted by Town Meeting, the Town's legislative body, and you expose the Town to the risk of appeals, claims, litigation, and legal expenses when legal standards are disregarded or not applied.

CONCLUSION

The Select Board respectfully and sincerely requests that you conduct yourselves in a manner that instills confidence in and respect for Town government and your board. In your capacity as a Town board member, you serve the public and not your personal interests. Following these guidelines will help to ensure that we represent the public interest first and foremost, and avoid needless potential liability and expense for the Town. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may lead to a hearing before the Select Board to consider complaints or charges and could result in discipline up to and including removal.



Economic Development Committee

Town Hall, 40 Center Street Fairhaven, MA 02719

June 4, 2025

Mr. Charles Murphy
Chair- Select Board
Mr. Goerge Samia
Town Administrator

Hello Chair Murphy and TA Samia:

The EDC mission statement/ Charge needs to be updated.

FROM: The mission of the Fairhaven Economic Development Committee is to provide the Select Board with guidance on the enhancement of the existing business community, ways to attract new business and encourage development. The result of programs, from this guidance, will have a goal to enhance overall economic impact. These programs will result in a growth in business activity, jobs and revenue. The Select Board acknowledges that a strong business community is essential to the financial well-being of the Town. The membership shall consist of five (5) at-large members with ties and experience in Fairhaven, to be appointed by the Select Board; one (1) voting representative member from the Select Board; and one voting representative from the Planning Board, to be appointed by the Planning Board. Two (2) Alternate Non- Voting members, appointed by the Select Board.

TO: The mission of the Fairhaven Economic Development Committee is to provide the Select Board with guidance on the enhancement of the existing business community, ways to attract new business and encourage development. The result of programs, from this guidance, will have a goal to enhance overall economic impact. These programs will result in a growth in business activity, jobs and revenue. The Select Board acknowledges that a strong business community is essential to the financial well-being of the Town. The membership shall consist of shall consist of five (5) at-large members. The breakdown of the membership shall consist of five (5) at-large voting members with ties and experience in Fairhaven, to be appointed by the Select Board; (1) Select Board non-voting ex-officio member to be appointed by the Select Board. The (1) Select Board ex-officio member will serve as a resource, providing insights, expertise and guidance based on their official capacity and role. All terms are for one (1) year.

If you have any questions, please contact me at cathymelanson@yahoo.com or phone 508-989-2289

Sincerely,

Cathy Melanson
Chair



Monday, July 14, 2025

Correspondence

1. Contact Forms: Michelle Costen

Fwd: Fairhaven Cultural Council Community

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 7:13 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

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

From: **michelle costen** <michcosten@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 7:08 AM

Subject: Fairhaven Cultural Council Community

To: Charlie Murphy <cmurphy@molifeinc.com>, <TownAdmin@fairhaven-ma.gov>, <ksilvia2@yahoo.com>, stevebouley <stevebouley@comcast.net>, <elabrie6@comcast.net>

Good Morning George Sami, Select Board, Planning Board & Fairhaven Cultural Council Community,

I am very serious about this,

Please add Saint Mary's Church to the Fairhaven Cultural Council Community 2025. The Unitarian Universal Church is the only church listed. There are

It is time we have a yearly celebration and picnic in honor of Mother Mary as a symbol of Purity. And put a flag of Mother Mary in front of the Town Hall. It is time we include Mother Mary and make her Pure Presence and beauty visible in our town too.

We want Mother Mary to be *Included* and *Visible* at the Town Hall too. This would be a wonderful symbol of Pure Presence and beauty for our children to remember and grow up with in this town.. **"Fairhaven has Presence"**.

The pride flag is a symbol of pride in connection with the UU church, as also, many of the ministers from the UU church are gay, and they hang pride flags running down their church walls. This is exclusive to that church.

So Mother Mary should be permitted to be at the Town Hall too. In fact we demand it. This way our children in Fairhaven will have a healthy symbol of Pure Presence and Beauty they can remember. We want our children to remember a picnic with the Beautiful Presence of Mother Mary.

This flag I am sending you really is truly uplifting, and we would not mind our tax dollars going towards buying this flag, to put in front of our Town Hall. It is time to Include and make visible Mother Mary on our streets in Fairhaven. All are Welcome.

Very Truly and Sincerely Yours,

Michelle Costen
Advocate for Justice
Fairhaven, Mass

--

--



HVw7QxDSOJ__TPT573F_USFlag3size_mockup1.webp
210K

For Public Record-Fairhaven Cultural Council Community

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com>
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 8:43 AM

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

From: **michelle costen** <michcosten@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 7:13 AM
Subject: Fwd: Fairhaven Cultural Council Community
To: <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Dear Town Administrator, & Selectboard, please post this letter and flag for Public Record.
Thank you,
Michelle Costen,
Advocate for Justice.

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

From: **michelle costen** <michcosten@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 7:08 AM
Subject: Fairhaven Cultural Council Community
To: Charlie Murphy <cmurphy@molifeinc.com>, <TownAdmin@fairhaven-ma.gov>, <ksilvia2@yahoo.com>, stevebouley <stevebouley@comcast.net>, <elabrie6@comcast.net>

Good Morning George Sami, Select Board, Planning Board & Fairhaven Cultural Council Community,
I am very serious about this.

Please add Saint Mary's Church to the Fairhaven Cultural Council Community 2025. The Unitarian Universal Church is the only church listed.

It is time we have a yearly celebration and picnic in honor of Mother Mary as a symbol of Purity. And put a flag of Mother Mary n front of the Town Hall. It is time we include Mother Mary and make her Pure Presence and Beautiful Nature, visible in our town too.

This would be a wonderful symbol of Pure Presence and Beauty for our children to remember and grow up with in this town.. **"Fairhaven has Presence"**.

The pride flag is a symbol of pride in connection with the UU church, as also, many of the ministers from the UU church are gay, and they hang pride flags running down their church walls This is obviously exclusive to that church.

So Mother Mary should be permitted to be at the Town Hall too. In fact we demand it as a constitutional right. This way our children in Fairhaven will have a healthy symbol of Pure Presence and Beauty they can remember. We would like our children to remember a picnic with the Beautiful Presence of Mother Mary.

This flag I am sending you really is truly uplifting, and we would not mind our tax dollars going towards buying this flag, to put in front of our Town Hall. It is time to include and make visible Mother Mary on our streets in Fairhaven. All are Welcome to a Picnic with Mother Mary.

Very Sincerely Yours,

--

Michelle Costen
Advocate for Justice
Fairhaven Mass

For Public Record

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 8:46 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Charlie Murphy <cmurphy@molifeinc.com>, ksilvia2@yahoo.com, stevebouley <stevebouley@comcast.net>

Good Morning George Sami, Select Board, Planning Board & Fairhaven Cultural Council Community,
I am very serious about this.

Please add Saint Mary's Church to the Fairhaven Cultural Council Community 2025. The Unitarian Universal Church is the only church listed.

It is time we have a yearly celebration and picnic in honor of Mother Mary as a symbol of Purity. And put a flag of Mother Mary n front of the Town Hall. It is time we include Mother Mary and make her Pure Presence and Beautiful Nature, visible in our town too.

This would be a wonderful symbol of Pure Presence and Beauty for our children to remember and grow up with in this town.. **"Fairhaven has Presence"**.

The pride flag is a symbol of pride in connection with the UU church, as also, many of the ministers from the UU church are gay, and they hang pride flags running down their church walls This is obviously exclusive to that church.

So Mother Mary should be permitted to be at the Town Hall too. In fact we demand it as a constitutional right. This way our children in Fairhaven will have a healthy symbol of Pure Presence and Beauty they can remember. We would like our children to remember a picnic with the Beautiful Presence of Mother Mary.

This flag I am sending you really is truly uplifting, and we would not mind our tax dollars going towards buying this flag, to put in front of our Town Hall. It is time to Include and make visible Mother Mary on our streets in Fairhaven. All are Welcome to a Picnic with Mother Mary.

Very Sincerely Yours,

--

*Michelle Costen
Advocate for Justice
Fairhaven Mass*

--



HVw7QxDSOJ__TPT573F_USFlag3size_mockup1.webp
210K

UU Church Entanglement with Town Hall officials- For Public Record

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:51 AM

To: TownAdmin@fairhaven-ma.gov, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Charlie Murphy <cmurphy@molifeinc.com>, ksilvia2@yahoo.com

Dear George this needs to be addressed in our Selectboard meeting. For the Public Record-

An Entanglement with an active church's beliefs and doctrines is both visually obvious, and obvious in the meeting minutes of over the past 4 years, especially. Namely with the UU church-

Our Tax Dollars are being used for this private active UU church that is not publicly owned. A church whose affiliates are making over a Billion. The CPC regulations are that there can be no other financial resources available, in order for entities to apply for taxpayer CPC funds. These UU churches receive endowments, make investments and have assets to draw from, in the millions of dollars. The UU church is a member of the UUA where reports of wealth increases have been noted to be over a Billion, especially in the last few years. They should be borrowing from their own UU entities. Instead many UU entities are all applying for CPC taxpayer dollars.

I am very concerned, this will lead to a rightful class action lawsuit in this town, if this entanglement with the UU church and our town hall officials and taxpayer funds, and its flags on our town hall, persist.

The pride flag is a belief system that has become obviously exclusive on a large scale, with the UU church, as they too have gay ministers who teach to embrace lesbianism, etc. The Governor is also gay and she has spoken at a specific UU church, which we have a record of also.

See photo below-

The same flags running down this UU church are on our town hall.

Conflict of Interest laws, Separation of church and state, abuse with our tax dollars, and transparency laws, appear greatly to be in violation, not just to me, but with other concerned residents as well, who actually made me, aware of what was going on.

Do you know that there are town meeting members(our legislative body) and residents too, who don't even know that the UU Church is not publically owned?

It was in a legal notice listed for CPC funds **BPW/Unitarian Universalist Church**, listed just like this, giving the subliminal impression that the church was a public entity, because it is side by side with the Board of Public works on a legal notice, of who was applying for CPC funds. (Not to mention that the person who worked for the UU Church was also on the BPW, and the CPC boards. This same person was in the local paper who was also having his reputation questioned by the town's people)

There was a time that I, too, thought the church was publicly owned and was under that impression for many years. Also to note, historically, the church and its teachings/culture have changed greatly from the days of H.H.R. There are residents who don't consider the UU church as part of their historic culture, myself included. I do however consider St Joseph's church as part of my historic culture as I attended that church as a young child here in Fairhaven over 60 years ago. **The St Joseph church was first built in 1905 and then a new one built in 1925 here in Fairhaven. To be classified as historic would be 50 years or more. Saint Mary's too, qualifies as historic and as part of the Fairhaven culture. The Unitarian church was built in 1904. There are many churches that are historic, taxpayers can't pay for all of them to stay a float.**

We need to discuss this all out and be done with this show of church favoritism, and enforced pride doctrine upon our town, no matter the guise in which some appointed officials continue to try and justify it as being lawful. It is not. A terrible wrong needs to be made right in this town, or made fair and square to all taxpayers and residents who consider other churches as part of their culture.t

And Please Review Anti Aid Amendment laws. It is a LAW that directly reflects our First Amendment Rights. Conflict of Interest Laws, and Separation of Church and State Laws, all need to be reviewed for the Health and Wellbeing of this town.

Public Comment - CPA Funds granted to Unitarians.

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 27, 2025 at 9:54 AM

To: TownAdmin@fairhaven-ma.gov, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Charlie Murphy <cmurphy@molifeinc.com>, ksilvia2@yahoo.com, stevebouley <stevebouley@comcast.net>, elabrie6@comcast.net, cwowi@aol.com

I have attached a public comment recording to this email in reference to the information that was sent to me from the town clerk on fiscal year 22 CPA project, funding appropriation \$193,439 1st phase- and grant agreement.

sent the recording so as to not have tedious reading, and to make it easier For you to understand . .

I will be following up with another recording in reference to the fundamental laws of the anti-aid amendment. And will explain that the town council's caveat in the letter that was sent to me which was not officially stamped, does not take precedence, and cannot overrule the anti-aid amendment and the true scrutiny of a three part test process with the public, which was never actually performed at the neighborhood level.

Recording is attached to this email.

Michelle Costen
Advocate for justice
Fairhaven Mass



New Recording 154.m4a

6814K

CPC- Taxpayers funding the Unitarians

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

To: TownAdmin@fairhaven-ma.gov, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 8:47 AM

Dear George Samia, Select board, Town Meetings Members & Public at Large.

I send this recording in reference to the Anti Aid Amendment Law, and reasons why the caveat of non-religious purposes allowing fun distributions to go to the Unitarians, is not holding weight against the Anti Aid Amendment Law, and the three part test known as the Helms test. There has been an obvious entanglement with Unitarians and Townhall officials who were appointed to the CPC and other committees and boards, and the definite appearances of conflict of interest.

The Acceptance letter to the president of the Unitarian church for CPC funds had some standout discrepancies in it, which I have tried to point out some of them to you in these last two recordings.

I was going to follow up with a third recording, but I won't be doing that at this time.

I think I've offered enough insight to the situation that there should be considerations and responses to me and the public that make legal sense and common sense.

The fact that some of these people are no longer involved, does not matter, because appropriations could continue, with some of the town hall officials who are still involved with the Unitarians and our town hall.

As it appears this funding to the Unitarians has enabled them to continue on with activities in this town, that many taxpayers are not in agreement with and feel that their Will of Moral Conscience has been infringed upon, and that their tax pay in dollars, are not going to those causes(housing for example) that are deemed more pertinent as priority, and directly useful to the people of Fairhaven.

There are many discrepancies to the law that have unfolded, in these appropriations of public funds given to a private (very active) political church entity.

Michelle Costen
Advocate for Justice
Fairhaven, Mass

 **New Recording 155.m4a**
3541K