



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, October 16, 2025 at**  
**5:30PM Held both at Town Hall &**  
**Remotely via Zoom**

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

Chair, Ms. Melanson, opened the meeting at 5:35pm and welcomed all.

**2. Quorum/Attendance:**

Present: Cathy Melanson, Keith Silvia, John Hinds, Bob Hannon, Miles Grant, & Karyn Ferreira.

Mr. Nils Isaksen arrived at the meeting at 5:44pm.

Mr. Grant left the meeting at 6:37pm.

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

**3. Review and Approve Minutes of August 20, 2025 Meeting:**

Motion to approve the minutes for the meeting on August 20, 2025 made by Mr. Hannon, seconded by Ms. Ferreira. Motion passed unanimously (6-0). Mr. Isaksen was not present for this vote.

**4. Correspondence:**

Ms. Melanson noted there was no correspondence received.

5. Octoberfest- October 18<sup>th</sup> 12pm to 6pm:

Ms. Melanson noted there are twelve food vendors scheduled to be at the event and Nasketucket Winery is serving in the Beer Garden. There will be two officers on duty at the event and there will be ID checks and wrist bands to verify age.

Mr. Grant mentioned idea of creating an end of year report for all the Economic Development Committee events.

6. Recent and Upcoming Ribbon Cutting Events:

Ms. Melanson noted there was a recent ribbon cutting event at SOCO Tavern, located at 136 Huttleston Avenue.

7. Upcoming EDC Networking Event- December 11, 2025 at Tropical Smoothie Café (We can discuss):

Ms. Melanson confirmed the EDC Networking Event will be on December 11, 2025 at 5:30pm.

The Committee spoke in favor of cancelling the November Economic Development Committee meeting.

Ms. Melanson noted that she is going to invite Mr. Mark Sylvia, our State Representative, to the December After-Hours Event.

Ms. Melanson noted that if Mr. Mark Sylvia will be in attendance, she will add that information to the email invite.

The Committee brought up concerns with the low attendance at the Networking Events.

8. Local News and Potential Businesses:

Ms. Melanson noted she is trying to schedule a ribbon cutting event with Sam and John's Pizza, located at 390 Main Street.

Ms. Melanson reached out to Aaron's Glass, located at 47 Howland Road, but no ribbon cutting was scheduled.

Ms. Melanson noted that the Sail Loft Tavern located at 109 Middle Street, is still in the process of getting ready to open and they are interested in a ribbon cutting.

**9. Updates From John Hinds:**

Mr. Hinds noted public interest in Fieldstones in Mattapoisett possibly having a store added to Fairhaven.

Motion to allow Mr. Hinds to speak to the owner of Fieldstones representing the EDC made by Mr. Hannon, seconded by Mr. Grant. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Hinds mentioned the possibility of creating a project to investigate vacant lots that are Town owned and try to come up with a list for possible auctioning.

Motion for the committee to adopt a project for Mr. Hinds to make a list of all the vacant lots that are Town owned and create a list for possible auctioning made by Mr. Hinds, seconded by Ms. Melanson. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Motion to make Mr. Hinds the lead on the project made by Ms. Melanson, seconded by Mr. Hannon. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Committee noted that once the project and information is together it needs to be presented to the Committee before it is presented to the Select Board.

The Committee discussed speaking about this item the next meeting in January.

Mr. Hinds mentioned the possibility of an incentive to realtors for selling properties.

**10. Community Development Coordinator Updates (If Alyssa has time):**

Ms. Alyssa Botelho, the Community Development Coordinator, was not present for this meeting.

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

Mr. Hannon mentioned adding his report to the January meeting.

Ms. Melanson noted errors with the rezoning map on the website and needing to discuss getting it fixed.

12. Next Meeting for Regular Business:

The next meeting will be announced.

Ms. Melanson closed the meeting at 7:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Hailey Anne Hemingway*

Minutes got approved at Economic Development Committee meeting on January 15, 2026.