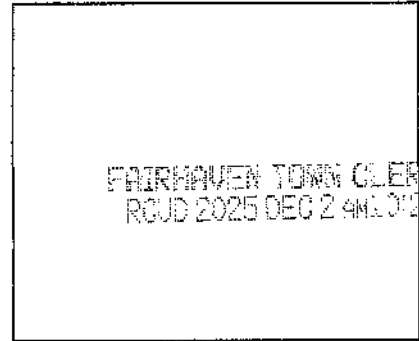


**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
November 17, 2025**



**Present**

Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner  
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner  
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager  
Josh Crabb, Highway Superintendent  
Christin Ritz, Resident  
Phoebe Hancock, Resident

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. November 3, 2025**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of November 3, 2025. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. November 3, 2025 – Executive Session A**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of November 3, 2025 – Executive Session A. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

**A. Christin Ritz, Native Plant Garden Macomber Park**

Mr. Lopes recused himself as he is an abutter to Macomber Park.

Ms. Ritz – I was here back in June regarding a Native Plant Garden at Macomber Park where the current bike track is now. Also, because the area is partly on the wetland buffer zone, I did talk to the Conservation Commission. They were in favor of the idea. There has also been a lot of interest from individuals and gardening groups who would like to volunteer once the project is underway. As far as funding, there are a lot of grants available for this kind of project with the environmental benefit. We applied for a few grants and have received a grant in the amount of \$500 from Keep Mass Beautiful. This grant is for pollinator friendly plants and it expires on June 30, 2026. I also applied for a

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CPC Grant to fund the walkway and Kelly Camara also attended an informational meeting for other grants that we are looking to apply for. I have also been trying to find out more information about the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Projects) money. I know that some of it has been used but from what I understand there is still a lot of money available but I have not been able to get an answer. Also, I have been in contact with local nurseries for donations or discounted pricing for the plants and shrubs. My vision for this project is a native plant garden with a handicap accessible walkway so that everyone can enjoy it. Also, there is someone that is interested in donating a bench and we would put a wheelchair pad next to it. I have met with a few landscapers at the site to get ideas about the plants and walkways. There would be various plants, shrubs and ground cover, all of them would require the least amount of maintenance and that would bloom at different parts of the year. In addition, I would also like to have educational and informational signs throughout the trail that would explain how the plants and shrubs benefit the environment. It possible, I would also like to see an osprey platform installed there as well. While at the site there are some issues that arose. There are some invasive plants there like Japanese Knotweed and the only way to get rid of it is with a controlled herbicide. If the MVP money is still available, that may be a good use for it. Also, there is a larger tree which is entangled with bittersweet vines that need to be removed before it strangles the tree. There is also a dead tree which is very small that we would like to keep, if possible.

Mr. Hobson – Macomber Park is a beautiful park that is underutilized and this would be beneficial for the park and the Town.

Mr. Wotton – The proposed walkway that goes out to Bernese Street, is that going to be near the new pump track?

Mr. Crabb – We could go a little closer to the pump house if needed, but I would need to review the pump track plans.

Ms. Rotondo – I love the idea of the osprey platform.

Ms. Smith - Have you contacted Mass Audubon Society regarding the osprey platform? I also, have a few cost concerns. Do we need any engineering for the walkway? Originally, we talked about knocking down the current track and now it sounds like you would like the clay removed from the site.

Mr. Crabb – Does the current NOI (Notice of Intent) cover this?

Ms. Ritz – Conservation said we would need an RDA (Request for Determination of Applicability).

Mr. Furtado – If the Board votes to move forward I recommend that Ms. Ritz meet with Mr. Crabb to discuss funding and everything else that would need to be done.

Mr. Crabb – I agree but I think that we should also ask Ms. Camara to meet with us so we can go over things in full detail.

Ms. Ritz requested a letter of Support from the Board of Public Works to accompany the CPC Grant Application.

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Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve the Letter of Support for the CPC Grant Application. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B Sarah Rego, Geochche at Fort Phoenix & West Island Town Beach.**

The Board skipped over this appointment as Ms. Rego was not in attendance.

**V. Item for Action**

**A. Methuen Construction, WPCF Upgrades, Payment #23 \$1,727,820.74**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Methuen Construction WPCF Upgrades Payment #23 in the amount of \$1,727,802.74. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B DEP Pay Req#23(CWP-22-67) \$1,727,821.00**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve DEP Pay Req. #23 (CWP-22-67) in the amount of \$1,727,821.00. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Tighe & Bond, WPCF Upgrades Payment #25 \$125,598.35**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tighe & Bond WPCF Upgrades Payment #25 in the amount of \$125,598.35. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**D. DEP Pay Req #19A (CWP-22-67A) \$125,598.00**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve DEP Pay Req. #19A (CWP-22-67A) in the amount of \$125,598.00. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**E. 2026 Recycle Center Fees**

Mr. Furtado reviewed with the Board the 2023, 2024 & 2025 revenue and expenses associated with the recycle center.

Mr. Crabb – The only thing that is not reflected here are the highway overtime fees and the fees for hauling. If we count those fees we would be in a deficit.

Mr. Wotton – I recommend to keep the fees the same and see how we do next year. I do not think that we should go up on commercial permits or tickets.

Ms. Smith – I do not think that we should go up on commercial permits or tickets.

Mr. Lopes – I agree, I do not think that we should go up on commercial permits or tickets.

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Mr. Lopes motioned to keep the recycle center fees the same as 2025. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote 4-0-1 with Mr. Wotton abstaining.

**F. Speakman Excavating, Jerusalem Road Retrofits Project, Payment #6(final payment) \$9,090.33**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Speakman Excavating, Jerusalem Road Retrofits Project, Payment #6(final payment) in the amount of \$9,090.33 and Sign the Certificate of Final Completion. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**G. Tata & Howard, TC Corrective Action Assistance, Payment #3 \$302.04**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tata & Howard TC Corrective Action Assistance Payment #3 in the amount of \$302.04. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**H. Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory, Payment #26 \$9,018.14**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tata & Howard Lead Service Line Inventory Payment #26 in the amount of \$9,018.14. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**I. Tata & Howard, Supply Capacity Evaluation Payment #23 \$1,997.82**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Tata & Howard Supply Capacity Evaluation Payment #23 in the amount of \$1,997.82. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**J. Tata & Howard, 2025 ERP Training Payment #1 \$2,200.00**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve Tata & Howard 2025 ERP Training Payment #1 in the amount of \$2,200.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**K. Tata & Howard, Risk and Resilience Assessment Round 2 Payment #1 \$1,106.58**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tata & Howard Risk and Resilience Assessment Round 2 Payment # 1 in the amount of \$ 1,106.58. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**L. Apex Company, Peer Review WPCF Upgrades Payment #5 \$8,798.75**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Apex Company Peer Review WPCF Upgrades Payment #5 in the amount of \$8,798.75. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**M. Tata & Howard, Lead Service Line Inventory, Payment #27 \$2,965.71**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tata & Howard Lead Service Line Inventory Payment #27 in the amount of \$2,965.71. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

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**VI. Table Matters**

**A. ADU Development Fees**

Mr. Wotton – There is a paper that was put in front of you tonight with the water ADU fees and policy. I recommend that we review and discuss it at the next meeting. At that time, we will also review the draft sewer policy and fees.

**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

Ms. Hancock – I am a new homeowner in Town and I was wondering if there is a schedule of when you will be flushing?

Mr. Furtado explained the flushing schedule and explained the reason why we do the unidirectional flushing.

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

**Superintendent Report for November 17, 2025**

- Meet with Town Counsel re PCO's
- Attend Town Meeting Preview Meeting
- Teamsters negotiations
- Chair monthly MRV Meeting
- Stormwater Authority drafts review of stormwater management plan to Town Counsel
- Numerous Contractor and engineer meetings re PCO
- POTW Upgrade Meetings
- FY 27 various budgets and capital
- Grant extension for lead service line inventory
- Trial Date re Cherrystone sewer issue

Mr. Furtado answered any questions that the Board had regarding the Superintendent Report.

**B. Board Members**

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Mr. Hobson – There are two potholes on Middle Street, there is a pothole on Turner Avenue & one on Saltmarsh that all need to be filled. How many houses will they be building in Windmill Acres?

Mr. Furtado – I believe that Windmill Acres is on the Planning Board agenda tomorrow night.

Ms. Rotondo – There is a pothole around 107 Howland Road.

Ms. Smith – The end of Hacker Street near Casco Street needs to be graded.

Mr. Wotton – There are a few potholes on Route 6.

Mr. Crabb will address all the potholes that the Board mentioned. As far as the potholes on Rt. 6 Mr. Crabb has notified MassDOT and Eversource of the potholes that need attention.

**C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters**

**D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Relate Matters**

**IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting**

Ms. Smith motioned to set the date for the next meeting on December 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Business Manager

Minutes approved on December 1, 2025