



Town of Fairhaven Council on Aging

Fairhaven Council on Aging • 229 Huttleston Ave, Fairhaven, MA 02719
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Fairhaven Council on Aging • Board Meeting Minutes December 9, 2025

Present: Martha Reed, Terry Pereira, Joyce Veilleux, Carol Burt, Joan Mello, Nancy Santoro & Susan Oiestad

Absent: Michael Hevey

- 1) The meeting was legally posted on December 4, 2025
- 2) The meeting was called to order by Martha Reed at 9:04 am
- 3) Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Joan M. made the motion to approve the Minutes of the November 4, 2025 Meeting, Carol B. seconded. Vote passes.
- 4) Financial Report: Nothing out of line has happened in the month of November and we are moving along nicely.
- 5) Old Business

a. Programming:

- 1) LaSalette Trip December 3, 2025: The meal was incredible, choice of meat pie, turkey dinner or meatloaf and everyone had a great time. We will do it again this year.
- 2) Open Enrollment: 5 Appointments every day. Ended December 7th. Saw 249 People for shine appointments. 213 were unduplicated. Final tally will be ready by the end of the month.
- 3) Third round of "Tech Goes Home" (January 5th - March 2nd): Fortunate that we got a double shipment that we did not have to return so we are able to have a third round, with another 10 slots. Hope to have another in the Spring.
- 4) Thanksgiving Dinner: Fortunate, we did not have to pay out of pocket. The COA had 4 Generous donors that covered the cost.
- 5) Holiday Parties & Closures:
 - a. Parties: -Annual COA Holiday/Music Bingo December 12th, Single Supper Club December 16th, LGBTQ+ Supper Club December 17th
- 6.) Holiday Closures: Closing at Noon December 25th. Closed December 25th & 26th. Closing at Noon December 31st. Closed January 1st & January 2nd. Social day will be open for the full days

6.) New Business

- a. FY 27 Budget: The COA is putting in a Capital request for new tables and chairs. Estimate is around \$40,000. The current round tables and chairs are over 20 years old.
- b. ARAW FY26-27 Grant: Applying for \$20,000 from the ARAW of New Bedford to expand support for older adults in need.
- c. Late Winter/Spring Programming: We are talking with New Bedford Symphony to come in during the Spring for an event.
- d. December Events: Movie Mondays, Reverse Mortgage Dec. 8th, Medication Review SoCo Consultants, Dec. 18th, Holiday Party Dec. 12th, Supper Club Parties.

7.) Directors Report-
Senior Center/Program Utilization:

	November 2025	Year to Date Total
Events	318	3,559
Unduplicated Persons	640	2,145
Units of Service	2,156	26,280
S.H.I.N.E. Appts	249 (213 unduplicated)	2,298 (903 unduplicated)
Daily Utilization Rate	78.4	85.69

Transportation Utilization

This November, 50 seniors benefited from 148 rides, giving them safe, reliable access to appointments, shopping, and community programs.

Volunteer Contributions

Twenty-five volunteers dedicated over 460 hours of service, an in-kind contribution valued at approximately \$21,000. Their ongoing commitment continues to be essential to our daily operations and the successful delivery of programs.

Program Services Summary

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)& Emergency Food/Gift Cards:

This month, seven households were assisted with SNAP applications, screenings, recertifications, and required documentation. The COA also received over \$700 in Market Basket gift card donations, helping us support residents facing food insecurity. Community generosity continued with more than 500 pounds of non-perishable food donated by the Lions Club and local residents.

Housing Stability Services

We supported two households with eviction prevention, housing applications, and essential paperwork this month. Through a strong partnership with a local agency, one family was able to receive first and last month's rent, a security deposit, and two months of rental assistance—providing the stability needed to move safely into a new home.

Community Surplus Food Program

November saw two new enrollments and two disenrollments. The program continues to serve 55 households with monthly food boxes.

Fairhaven Community Outreach Partnership

The COA continues its partnership with the Fairhaven Police Department Outreach Team, engaging in weekly case coordination and follow-up to support older adults facing housing instability, mental health concerns, food insecurity, and the need for regular wellness checks. In October, three active cases received ongoing support.

Programs & Events Summary

Programming remained strong throughout the month, with several well-attended activities and seasonal events:

- Weekly Bingo and Golden Age Music Bingo continued to be among our most popular programs, drawing over 60 participants each week.
- Movie Mondays maintained steady interest, averaging 20 or more attendees.
- During the Veterans Day Parade, five participants rode the COA van—the highest turnout we have had for this event.
- The Veterans Day Luncheon, generously sponsored by AllTrust Bank, welcomed more than 50 veterans for a special meal and recognition.
- At the Thanksgiving Day Lunchcon, 50 meals were served onsite with the help of six volunteers, and 10 additional meals were delivered to individuals unable to attend in person.
- Medicare Open Enrollment continued to be a major focus, with four SHINE Counselors on-site and an average of more than five households assisted each day.
- Planning for upcoming celebrations is underway, including the Holiday Party, now scheduled for December 12 to accommodate a special Musical Bingo event.

Social Day Program

Please refer to attached reports from Lindsay Bourke and Deb Chmiel. Sally will be out on medical leave through the end of December; however, continuity of care remains strong with the new Activities Coordinator and new Aide supporting the program.

Fall & Winter Program Highlights

- Tech Goes Home – Town Digital Equity Project (next session underway)
- LaSalette Trip – December 3
- Holiday Parties
- New Bedford Symphony

Grants & Funding

- National Council on Aging & AT&T Technology Skills and Confidence Grant:

The COA applied as a Tier 3 organization for \$4,500 in funding to support technology confidence-building for older adults. Unfortunately, we were notified that the application was not selected for funding this year.

- ARAW Grant

The COA is applying for \$20,000 from the ARAW of New Bedford to expand support for older adults in need.

COA Kitchen Renovations

The COA received a \$25,000 earmark from Representative Mark Silvia for kitchen renovations. These improvements will increase functionality, enhance safety, and better support both food service and community programming. We are collaborating with the Town Facilities Director to begin the project, and contracting and paperwork are now in progress with the Executive Office of Aging and Independence (AGE).

8.) Social Day Coordinators Report:

- Exercise, Moxie Mobility, Bingo/Jingo, Trivia, Current Events, Charades, Reminisce, Men's Group, Craft Corner, Puzzle Group, Horse Race Game, Baking Group, Walking Group, Frisbee Toss, Left, Right, Center Game, Adult Coloring Pages, Penny Ante, Bunco, Shut the Box, Seated Basketball, Words in a Word, Scrabble Group, Movie Monday, "You Be the Judge," "What would you Do?"

Entertainment this month:

- 12/4/25- Entertainment W/ Rick F Karaoke
- 12/9/25- Entertainment W/ Rebecca Pink
- 12/11/25-Entertainment W/ Judy & Barry
- 12/18/25-Entertainment W/ Joe M
- 12/30/25/-Entertainment W/ Gary F

Notes: 12/25 & 12/26/25 Christmas C.O.A will be Closed

Upcoming Events: 12/30/25- New Year's Eve Party with Gary Farias

*Total Units Serviced for the month of December 214 with a client average of 10

9.) Other Business: None

10.) Next Meeting: Tuesday January 13, 2026 at 9:00am

11.) Roll Call & Adjournment: Joan M. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 am, Seconded by Terry P. , Vote passes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jocelyn Bowers
Administrative Assistant - Fairhaven COA