



## FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA

*July 28, 2025 6:30 p.m.*

***Town Hall – 40 Center Street – Fairhaven***

Log on or call 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 894 8599 3911, Passcode: 330130

The meeting can also be viewed on Channel 18 or on FairhavenTV.com

### **A. JOINT WITH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

1. Zoning Board of Appeals Promotion Process

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
ROUD 2025 JUL 24 AM 11:30

### **B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **C. APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS**

1. Town Meeting Survey Results: Anne Carreiro
2. Appointment Request: Historical Commission: Benjamin Hevey, Patrick Carr
3. Appointment Request: Commission on Disability: Pamela Roy

### **D. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. (Keith Hickey, Fire Chief)

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Firefighter Collective Bargaining Agreement, Hickox v. Fairhaven)

### **E. ACTION / DISCUSSION**

1. Contract: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator
2. Collective Bargaining Agreement: Fairhaven Firefighters Association, Local 1555, IAFF/PFFM
3. Annual Appointment of Election Workers
4. Select Board Statement: Upholding Behavioral Standards

### **F. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

1. Staffing Updates
2. Resignations: Nate Bekemeier and Michael Silva: Historical Commission; Geoffrey Sullivan: Zoning Board of Appeals
3. Other

### **G. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS**

### **H. MINUTES**

1. Accept the Select Board Open Session minutes of July 10, 2025 and July 14, 2025
2. Accept the Select Board Executive Session minutes of July 10, 2025 and July 14, 2025

### **I. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Contact Forms: Michael Kelly, Beth Luey, Nate Bekemeier, Wayne & Vicki Oliveira, David Wilson, Wayne Oliveira, Beth Luey, Matthew McDonald, Krystal Lunn, Miles Grant, Pam Whynot, Michael Kelly, Nate Bekemeier and Michael Silva Sandra Wilder, and Fairhaven Firefighters Local 1555

### **J. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting: ***Monday, August 11, 2025*** at 6:30pm

### **ADJOURN**



## Board of Appeals

Town Hall • 40 Center Street • Fairhaven, MA 02719

### MEETING NOTICE

**DATE AND TIME:** Monday, **July 28, 2025**, at 6:30 p.m.  
**MEETING:** Joint with the Select Board at Town Hall or via Zoom

- A. JOINT WITH SELECT BOARD**  
Zoning Board of Appeals Promotion Process

Join the Zoom Meeting  
call 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 894 8599 3911, Passcode: 330130



# **Monday, July 28, 2025**

## **Joint with Zoning Board of Appeals**

1. Zoning Board of Appeals Promotion Process



## **Monday, July 28, 2025**

### **Appointments and Community Items**

1. Town Meeting Survey Results: Anne Carreiro
2. Appointment Request: Historical Commission: Benjamin Hevey, Patrick Carr
3. Appointment Request: Commission on Disability: Pamela Roy

## TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

TM 5-3-25

### *What's Next?* Survey Responses

94	Surveys Returned
231	Town Meeting Members
40.69%	Response Rate
215 Total Votes	

**Top Vote:**

Explore Regionalization: 64 Votes | 30% of TM  
Opportunities with the Town of Acushnet  
to share services and reduce costs.

Options:

Hold Meetings/Committees:	24%	to explore and discuss potential options for the deficit.
Support a Full Override:	16%	to fully cover the deficit through additional taxation.
Support Full Budget Cuts:	8%	to entirely offset the deficit through reductions in spending.
Support a Combination:	22%	of proportioned budget cuts and a partial override.
Explore Regionalization:	30%	opportunities with the Town of Acushnet to share services and reduce costs

52 Votes 24%	35 Votes 16%	18 Votes 8%	48 Votes 22%	64 Votes 30%
1	2	3	4	5
Hold Meetings/Committees:	Support a Full Override:	Support Full Budget Cuts:	Support a Combination:	Explore Regionalization:

Comments:

We appreciate everything the town officials and dept.'s will look into, to help ellivate trouble on the horizon

Pls include Long-Term vision for the town including capital needs that can be funded by approp. combination noted above

"THICKEN"

Private trash removal much like Westport

Exploring Regionalization is a BAD IDEA!!

[illegible]

# Local Property Tax Information

	<u>Average Single Family Value</u>	<u>Average Family Tax Bill</u>	<u>Ranking in State (345 Communities)</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
Acushnet	\$ 471,732.00	\$ 5,090.00	261	76%
Dartmouth	\$ 609,104.00	\$ 5,031.00	266	77%
<b>Fairhaven</b>	<b>\$ 454,253.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,234.00</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>92%</b>
Freetown	\$ 531,517.00	\$ 5,267.00	250	72%
Mattapoisett	\$ 744,594.00	\$ 8,012.00	110	32%
New Bedford	\$ 397,187.00	\$ 4,492.00	305	88%
Rochester	\$ 610,247.00	\$ 6,603.00	167	48%
Somerset	\$ 453,710.00	\$ 6,034.00	198	57%
Swansea	\$ 477,385.00	\$ 5,242.00	252	73%

\* Fairhaven ranks 318 out of 345 MA communities with the lowest average tax bill



# FY27 Projected Deficit: \$1,591,759

Local receipts remain constant, no significant revenue loss

## Fire

Eliminate EMS Captain / Training Position

### **Eliminate 3 Firefighters:**

1-Captain EMS and Training

2- Firefighters/Paramedics

Reduce EMS & Fire Training

Moderate Increase in OT with delay in emergency response

## Police

Eliminate Animal Control Department / Animal Shelter\* \$134,590

Eliminate 2 Police Officers

Eliminate 2 P-T Dispatchers

**\*\* Station Lobby / Dispatcher desk will be unstaffed from midnight to 8am daily \*\***

## Highway

Eliminate 3 Highway Employees

Eliminate 3 Summer help for Park

Raise Trash Fees \$15.00

## School

(All Projected Cuts would fall below Net  
School Spending)

Eliminate 22 Positions

Class sizes will increase to 30 students

Loss of Family Center

# FY27 Estimated Impact on Property Taxes with an Override of: \$1,591,759

Increase / Decrease Amount Selected \$1,591,759

Fairhaven			
	Residential & Open Space (RO)	Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property (CIP)	Total
FY 2025 # of Parcels	7,018	1,152	8,170
FY 2025 Assessed Value	2,882,510.114	453,033.973	3,335,544.087
FY 2025 Tax Levy	26,864.994	8,376.598	35,241.592

RO Tax Rate	CIP Tax Rate
9.32	18.49

	RO	CIP
Proposed Increase/Decrease to Levy:	1,213,413	378,346
Levy Share:	76.2309%	23.7691%
Proposed Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000:	0.42	0.84
Proposed New Tax Rate Per \$1,000 (Estimated New):	9.74	19.33
FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):	454,253	
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):	4,234	
FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):	190.79	

Assessed Value	Current Estimated RO Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated RO Tax Bill	Estimated RO Tax Bill Impact	Current Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Estimated CIP Tax Bill Impact
250,000	2,330.00	2,435.00	105.00	4,622.50	4,832.50	210.00
350,000	3,262.00	3,409.00	147.00	6,471.50	6,765.50	294.00
450,000	4,194.00	4,383.00	189.00	8,320.50	8,698.50	378.00
550,000	5,126.00	5,357.00	231.00	10,169.50	10,631.50	462.00
650,000	6,058.00	6,331.00	273.00	12,018.50	12,564.50	546.00
750,000	6,990.00	7,305.00	315.00	13,867.50	14,497.50	630.00
850,000	7,922.00	8,279.00	357.00	15,716.50	16,430.50	714.00
950,000	8,854.00	9,253.00	399.00	17,565.50	18,363.50	798.00
1,050,000	9,786.00	10,227.00	441.00	19,414.50	20,296.50	882.00
1,150,000	10,718.00	11,201.00	483.00	21,263.50	22,229.50	966.00
1,250,000	11,650.00	12,175.00	525.00	23,112.50	24,162.50	1,050.00
1,350,000	12,582.00	13,149.00	567.00	24,961.50	26,095.50	1,134.00
1,450,000	13,514.00	14,123.00	609.00	26,810.50	28,028.50	1,218.00
1,550,000	14,446.00	15,097.00	651.00	28,659.50	29,961.50	1,302.00

# FY27 Projected Deficit: \$3 Million

## Fire

Eliminate EMS Captain / Training Position

**Eliminate 4 Firefighters:**  
1-Captain EMS and Training  
3-Firefighters/Paramedics

Reduction to Half of the Call Firefighter Staff

Decrease in Ambulance Revenue

## Police

Eliminate Animal Control Department / Animal Shelter\*  
\$134,590

Eliminate 4 Police Officers  
Eliminate 2 P-T Dispatchers

**\*\* Station Lobby / Dispatcher desk will be unstaffed from midnight to 8am daily \*\***

## Highway

Eliminate 4 Highway Employees

Eliminate 6 Summer help - Park (Impact Beach)

Raise Trash Fees \$30.00

Reduction in services to the Tree and St Light  
Department

## School

(All Projected Cuts would fall below Net School  
Spending)

Eliminate 50 positions

Class sizes increase to more than 30 students  
Administrative & Nursing Cuts  
Loss of Family Center

# FY27 Estimated Impact on Property Taxes with an Override of: \$3 Million

Increase / Decrease Amount Selected \$3,000,000

Fairhaven			
	Residential & Open Space (RO)	Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property (CIP)	Total
FY 2025 # of Parcels	7,018	1,152	8,170
FY 2025 Assessed Value	2,882,510,114	453,033,973	3,335,544,087
FY 2025 Tax Levy	26,864,994	8,376,598	35,241,592

RO Tax Rate	CIP Tax Rate
9.32	18.49

	RO	CIP
Proposed Increase/Decrease to Levy:	2,286,928	713,072
Levy Share:	76.2309%	23.7691%
Proposed Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000:	0.79	1.57
Proposed New Tax Rate Per \$1,000 (Estimated New):	10.11	20.06
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):</b>	<b>454,253</b>	
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):</b>	<b>4,234</b>	
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):</b>	<b>358.86</b>	

Assessed Value	Current Estimated RO Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated RO Tax Bill	Estimated RO Tax Bill Impact	Current Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Estimated CIP Tax Bill Impact
250,000	2,330.00	2,527.50	197.50	4,622.50	5,015.00	392.50
350,000	3,262.00	3,538.50	276.50	6,471.50	7,021.00	549.50
450,000	4,194.00	4,549.50	355.50	8,320.50	9,027.00	706.50
550,000	5,126.00	5,560.50	434.50	10,169.50	11,033.00	863.50
650,000	6,058.00	6,571.50	513.50	12,018.50	13,039.00	1,020.50
750,000	6,990.00	7,582.50	592.50	13,867.50	15,045.00	1,177.50
850,000	7,922.00	8,593.50	671.50	15,716.50	17,051.00	1,334.50
950,000	8,854.00	9,604.50	750.50	17,565.50	19,057.00	1,491.50
1,050,000	9,786.00	10,615.50	829.50	19,414.50	21,063.00	1,648.50
1,150,000	10,718.00	11,626.50	908.50	21,263.50	23,069.00	1,805.50
1,250,000	11,650.00	12,637.50	987.50	23,112.50	25,075.00	1,962.50
1,350,000	12,582.00	13,648.50	1,066.50	24,961.50	27,081.00	2,119.50
1,450,000	13,514.00	14,659.50	1,145.50	26,810.50	29,087.00	2,276.50
1,550,000	14,446.00	15,670.50	1,224.50	28,659.50	31,093.00	2,433.50

# FY27 Projected Deficit:

## \$4,791,759

Local receipts with possible loss of tuition, trash, and turbine revenue

### Fire

Eliminate EMS Captain / Training Position

#### **Eliminate 5 Firefighters:**

1-Captain EMS and Training

4-Firefighters/Paramedics

Dissolution of Call Firefighters

Decrease in Ambulance Revenue

### Police

Eliminate Animal Control Department / Animal Shelter\* \$134,590

Eliminate 6 Police Officers

Eliminate 2 P-T Dispatchers

**\*\* Station Lobby / Dispatcher desk will be unstaffed from midnight to 8am daily \*\***

Eliminate 42k in OT budget for Community Policing

### Highway

Eliminate 6 Highway Employees

Outsource Trash- Residents to pay on their own

Eliminate 9 Summer Help - Park & Beach

### School

(All Projected Cuts would fall below Net School Spending)

Eliminate 76 Positions

Class sizes significantly exceed 30 students

Administrative & Nursing Cuts

Loss of Family Center



# FY27 Estimated Impact on Property Taxes with an Override of: \$4,791,759

Increase / Decrease Amount Selected \$4,791,759

Fairhaven			
	Residential & Open Space (RO)	Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property (CIP)	Total
FY 2025 # of Parcels	7,018	1,152	8,170
FY 2025 Assessed Value	2,882,510,114	453,033,973	3,335,544,087
FY 2025 Tax Levy	26,864.994	8,376.598	35,241.592

RO Tax Rate	CIP Tax Rate
9.32	18.49

	RO	CIP
Proposed Increase/Decrease to Levy:	3,652,803	1,138,956
Levy Share:	76.2309%	23.7691%
Proposed Tax Rate Impact Per \$1,000:	1.27	2.51
Proposed New Tax Rate Per \$1,000 (Estimated New):	10.59	21.00
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Assessed Value (Current):</b>	<b>454,253</b>	
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill (Current):</b>	<b>4,234</b>	
<b>FY 2025 Average Single Family Tax Bill Impact (Estimated New):</b>	<b>576.90</b>	

Assessed Value	Current Estimated RO Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated RO Tax Bill	Estimated RO Tax Bill Impact	Current Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Proposed Estimated CIP Tax Bill	Estimated CIP Tax Bill Impact
250,000	2,330.00	2,647.50	317.50	4,622.50	5,250.00	627.50
350,000	3,262.00	3,706.50	444.50	6,471.50	7,350.00	878.50
450,000	4,194.00	4,765.50	571.50	8,320.50	9,450.00	1,129.50
550,000	5,126.00	5,824.50	698.50	10,169.50	11,550.00	1,380.50
650,000	6,058.00	6,883.50	825.50	12,018.50	13,650.00	1,631.50
750,000	6,990.00	7,942.50	952.50	13,867.50	15,750.00	1,882.50
850,000	7,922.00	9,001.50	1,079.50	15,716.50	17,850.00	2,133.50
950,000	8,854.00	10,060.50	1,206.50	17,565.50	19,950.00	2,384.50
1,050,000	9,786.00	11,119.50	1,333.50	19,414.50	22,050.00	2,635.50
1,150,000	10,718.00	12,178.50	1,460.50	21,263.50	24,150.00	2,886.50
1,250,000	11,650.00	13,237.50	1,587.50	23,112.50	26,250.00	3,137.50
1,350,000	12,582.00	14,296.50	1,714.50	24,961.50	28,350.00	3,388.50
1,450,000	13,514.00	15,355.50	1,841.50	26,810.50	30,450.00	3,639.50
1,550,000	14,446.00	16,414.50	1,968.50	28,659.50	32,550.00	3,890.50

# What's Next?

## Town Meeting Member Survey: Deficit Planning Options

As a Town Meeting Member and representative of our community, please indicate your preferences regarding options to address the FY27 projected budget deficit:

- ☐ **Hold Meetings/Committees** to explore and discuss potential options for the deficit.
- ☐ **Support a Full Override** to fully cover the deficit through additional taxation.
- ☐ **Support Full Budget Cuts** to entirely offset the deficit through reductions in spending.
- ☐ **Support a Combination** of proportioned budget cuts and a partial override.
- ☐ **Explore Regionalization** opportunities with the Town of Acushnet to share services and reduce costs

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## New submission from Volunteer Opportunities

1 message

**Benjamin Hevey Benjamin Hevey** <no-reply@jgpr.net>

Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 8:20 PM

Reply-To: hev4@yahoo.com

To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

**Full Name**

Benjamin Hevey

**Address**

**Email**

**Phone**

**How long have you been a Fairhaven resident?**

45 years

**What Board(s) or Committee(s) are you interested in joining? What is your reason for joining?**

I would like to serve on the Town Historical Commission. As a history teacher at Fairhaven High School for the past 23 years, and currently starting my second year of teaching an elective on local history, I feel it will be a great way for me to gain more knowledge of the town, while at the same time being able to contribute an local history that I have accumulated doing my research.

**Have you attended a meeting of this Board or Committee?**

No

**Have you served or are you currently on any Town of Fairhaven Boards? If so, please indicate what Board and number of years**

I am currently not on any boards.

**Interests and Qualifications.**

As stated above, being a lifelong resident, and current history teacher, introducing a class on local history, I feel it would be a great way for me to gain more knowledge of the town, while at the same time being able to contribute any expertise that I may have.

My wife is from out of state and she frequently remarks about how much we take for granted, as a town, all the history that we have and how lucky we are to live here, and I would love to have the opportunity to do whatever I can to make sure that the town, especially the students understand how much history we have here in Fairhaven.

**Consent**

 I agree to the privacy policy.



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## New submission from Volunteer Opportunities

1 message

**Patrick Carr Patrick Carr** <no-reply@jgpr.net>

Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 10:58 AM

Reply-To:

To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

**Full Name**

Patrick Carr

**Address**

**Email**

**Phone**

**How long have you been a Fairhaven resident?**

47 years

**What Board(s) or Committee(s) are you interested in joining? What is your reason for joining?**

Historical Commission One Member, 2-year term

**Have you attended a meeting of this Board or Committee?**

Yes

**Have you (or are you currently) served on any Town of Fairhaven Boards? If so, please indicate what Board and number of years**

ZBA, Planning Board, Economic Development Committee, Rogers Reuse Committee, 40R Work Study Group, Harbor Master Plan Committee. 2020 - Present

**Interstes and Qualifications (tell us about yourself)**

I am interested in volunteering to actively participate in the preservation, discussions, and actions necessary to care for the historic and beautiful buildings that were gifted by the late great Henry Huttleston Rogers and his family to the Town of Fairhaven. These monuments bestowed to the Town will never ever be duplicated and thus far have stood strong to the testament of time. Our historic structures have been well cared by many volunteers for many years for future enjoyment of the citizens of Fairhaven and surrounding communities. I would like to do my part in any way possible to help preserve and protect these timeless gems and pay it forward to the next generation.

**Consent**

 I agree to the privacy policy.

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## New submission from Volunteer Opportunities

1 message

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**gary lavalette gary lavalette** <no-reply@jgpr.net>

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 1:07 PM

Reply-To:

To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

**Full Name**

gary lavalette

**Address**

**Email**

**Phone**

**How long have you been a Fairhaven resident?**

45 years

**What Board(s) or Committee(s) are you interested in joining? What is your reason for joining?**

Historical Commission

**Have you attended a meeting of this Board or Committee?**

Yes

**Have you served or are you currently on any Town of Fairhaven Boards? If so, please indicate what Board and number of years**

Served on many boards through the years

**Interests and Qualifications.**

Town history. Was in charge of  
Fort Phoenix for 8 years. Would like to serve again.

**Consent**



I agree to the privacy policy.

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## New submission from Volunteer Opportunities

1 message

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**Pamela Roy Pamela Roy** <no-reply@jgpr.net>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 4:26 PM

Reply-To:

To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

**Full Name**

Pamela Roy

**Address**

**Email**

**Phone**

**How long have you been a Fairhaven resident?**

55 years

**What Board(s) or Committee(s) are you interested in joining? What is your reason for joining?**

I'm interested in joining the Commission on Disability.

**Have you attended a meeting of this Board or Committee?**

No


**Have you served or are you currently on any Town of Fairhaven Boards? If so, please indicate what Board and number of years**

No

**Interests and Qualifications.**

I was born with a disability and feel like I can contribute ideas with the knowledge of having a disability my whole life.

**Consent**

 I agree to the privacy policy.



## **Monday, July 28, 2025**

### **Executive Session**

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. (Keith Hickey, Fire Chief)

AND;

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Firefighter Collective Bargaining Agreement, Hickox v. Fairhaven)

***AND TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION***



## **Monday, July 28, 2025**

### **Action / Discussion**

1. Contract: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator
2. Collective Bargaining Agreement: Fairhaven Firefighters Association, Local 1555, IAFF/PFFM
3. Annual Appointment of Election Workers
4. Select Board Statement: Upholding Behavioral Standards



# TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS

ELISABETH E. HORAN  
TOWN CLERK

TOWN HALL · 40 CENTER STREET · FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719  
TELEPHONE: 508-979-4023 x 3 · EMAIL: CLERK@FAIRHAVEN-MA.GOV

E3

## MEMO

To: Select Board  
From: Elisabeth E. Horan, Town Clerk *E3H*  
Date: July 23, 2025  
Re: Annual Appointment of Election Workers

Honorable Select Board,

I respectfully recommend the annual reappointment of Election Workers, as listed in the attached document. In accordance with M.G.L. c. 54 § 12 the term of appointment is from August 16, 2025 through August 15, 2026.

Please consider placing this item on the agenda for your next available meeting. Once approved, kindly return the signed original copy to my office for processing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Attachment: Election Worker List



# TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS

ELISABETH E. HORAN  
TOWN CLERK

TOWN HALL · 40 CENTER STREET · FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719  
TELEPHONE: 508-979-4023 x 3 · EMAIL: CLERK@FAIRHAVEN-MA.GOV

## Annual Appointment of Election Workers

Term: August 16, 2025 – August 15, 2026

### DEMOCRATIC

Brian G. Billiter		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Lisa R. Billiter		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Linda M. Chevalier		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Dennis D. Gallant, Sr.		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Joan P. Kilroe		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Mark Medeiros		New Bedford, MA 02746
Patricia S. Miner		Acushnet, MA 02743
Kathryn J. Silvia		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Michael W. Thomas		Fairhaven, MA 02719

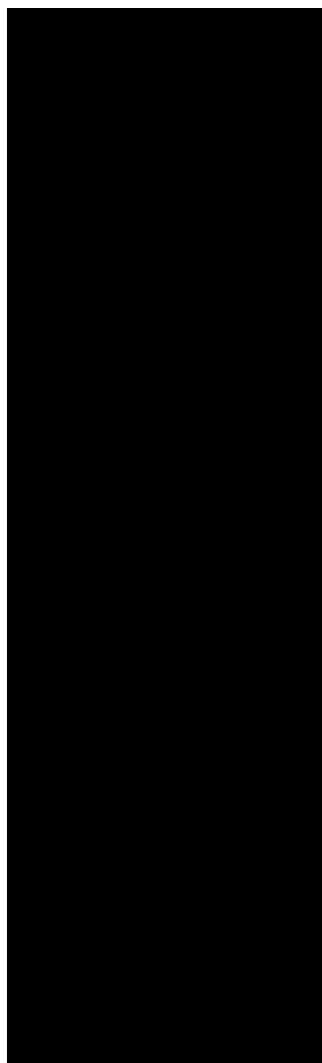
### REPUBLICAN

Christine A. Alfonse		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Linda Donnelly		Fairhaven, MA 02719

### UNENROLLED

Maria I. Branco		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Elaine Y. Burgo		New Bedford, MA 02740
Bernadette Costa		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Joseph A. Desrosiers		Fairhaven, MA 02719
George R. Diggle		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Nancy A. Dunlop		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Jacqueline M. Duval		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Jodi L. Duval		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Anne J. Ellis		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Deborah J. Gabriel		Fairhaven, MA 02719
Beth B. Kilanowich		New Bedford, MA 02745

Louise P. Lecomte  
Dennis Mattos  
Angelica A. Medeiros  
Cathy J. Melanson  
Claire M. Millette  
Kimberly A. Mimoso  
Lisa L. Moniz  
Katherine K. Monroe  
Sara M. Neto-Kalife  
Pauline J. Parker  
Susan E. Roderiques  
David T. Ross  
Donna M. Ross  
Margaret M. Souza  
Joanne L. St. Amand  
Genevieve V. Suman  
Rebecca H. Surprenant  
Joseph L. Sylvia  
Linda L. Therrien



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Select Board of the Town of Fairhaven

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

By its Board:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles K. Murphy, Sr., Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Romano, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Natalie A. Mello, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew B. Saunders, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Silvia, Member





**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

In the past few weeks, our Interim Town Administrator as well as Select Board members have received concerns and complaints brought forth regarding public behavior towards volunteers on various Town Boards. We have a **zero-tolerance policy for harassment, disrespect, or poor treatment** of individuals serving on our appointed and elected boards and committees. These individuals generously contribute their time and expertise to serve our community, and they deserve to be treated with courtesy, professionalism, and respect at all times.

The Board is committed to supporting each of its members and fostering a respectful environment for civic engagement. While constructive feedback and differing opinions are part of a healthy democracy, personal attacks, harassment, or inappropriate public conduct are unacceptable. If a member feels that public behavior has crossed the line into disrespect or intimidation, we encourage them to document the incident and bring it to the attention of the Chair and/or Town Administrator. Depending on the nature of the behavior, further steps—including legal or law enforcement consultation—may be warranted.

While we expect the public to uphold these standards, it is of **utmost importance that our board and committee members lead by example**. The tone of public discourse is shaped by the behavior of those who serve, and it is our responsibility to demonstrate integrity and professionalism. This standard applies not only during official meetings but also at public events and in all forms of communication, including social media.

The Select Board will take any instance of harassment or misconduct seriously and will address such behavior in accordance with our policies. We are committed to fostering a respectful, constructive environment where volunteers and officials can focus on the work of improving our community without fear of mistreatment. It is also important to note that there are times when the Board is limited in its ability to act or respond due to applicable laws, such as those related to personnel matters, confidentiality, or open meeting requirements. While this can be frustrating to the public or to individuals seeking immediate action, the Board is bound by legal obligations that must be followed.

The Board remains focused on the work of governing in a way that reflects our shared values of transparency, accountability, and mutual respect. We ask the community to help us model civil discourse and constructive participation in local government.



# **Monday, July 28, 2025**

## **Town Administrator**

1. Staffing Update
2. Resignations: Nate Bekemeier and Michael Silva: Historical Commission; Geoffrey Sullivan: Zoning Board of Appeals
3. Other



## **Monday, July 28, 2025**

### **Minutes**

1. Accept the Select Board Open Session minutes of July 10, 2025 and July 14, 2025
2. Accept the Select Board Executive Session minutes of July 10, 2025 and July 14, 2025



**FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
***July 10, 2025***

**H 1**

**Present:** Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello and Keith Silvia;

**Not Present:** Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Saunders and George Samia

Mr. Romano opened the meeting at 3:36pm

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** Ms. Mello motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) “to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel” (Keith Hickey) AND not to return to open session. Mr. Silvia seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Ms. Mello, Mr. Romano and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

***Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 3:38pm***

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

Accepted on \_\_\_\_



## FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

*July 14, 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 95<sup>th</sup> 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 95<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_



## **Monday, July 28, 2025**

### **Correspondence**

1. Contact Forms: Michael Kelly, Beth Luey, Nate Bekemeier, Wayne & Vicki Oliveira, David Wilson, Wayne Oliveira, Beth Luey, Matthew McDonald, Krystal Lunn, Miles Grant, Pam Whynot, Michael Kelly, Nate Bekemeier and Michael Silva Sandra Wilder, and Fairhaven Firefighters Local 1555

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## Fourth of July

1 message

**Historical Commission** <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Fri, Jul 4, 2025 at 12:19 PM

To: Select Board <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "Natalie A. Mello" <natalieamello@gmail.com>, George Samia <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Charles K Murphy Sr <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Keith Silvia <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Anne Carreiro <acarreiro@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Andrew Romano <Andrewromanorealtor@gmail.com>, Michael Jenney <mjenney@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Dear Selectboard and town officials,

Apologies for the email on a holiday; hopefully you won't have to read it until Monday.

At 8:15 this morning, July 4th, at the specific request of Wayne Oliveira and the Fairhaven Village Militia, I went down to Fort Phoenix to unlock the bunker and lower the US Flag, so that the Militia could stage a ceremonial flag raising for the Holiday. I was met at the fort by two active, uniformed members of the Militia, who helped me lower the flag and took it upon themselves to fold it properly. They suggested that they keep the flag and hand it to the woman selling Militia t-shirts at the Fort, so that it was nearby when needed. They also mentioned that often Wayne Oliveira prefers to raise a different flag for the ceremony, so either way they would be prepared. I agreed with this reasonable suggestion and left the Fort.

At 10am, I received a phone call from an unhinged and irate Wayne Oliveira, accusing me of ruining "his" ceremony by taking the flag. When I pointed out that I had left the flag in the possession of Militia members, he began to verbally abuse me and reiterate that his ceremony was being ruined.

Per the prearranged agreement (times provided by Wayne,) I returned to the fort at 10:20am to lock things back up. Seeing the flag flying, I said to Wayne "I see you were able to find the flag, that's good."

He rudely replied that it was his flag, and that he "did not know where the town's flag was." His wife Vicky then came over to ask me "where did you leave it." At that time I pointed out again that I did not "leave it somewhere," I handed it to the militia members who met me in the morning. Sure enough, they came over to confirm this, and the flag was exactly where they said it would be: with the woman selling t-shirts.

At that point (and this was witnessed by Natalie Mello, selectboard member) Wayne began to verbally abuse me with all manner of vile phrases. He called me a "fuckwad," a "power-hungry asshole," a "little weasel," and a "jackass." All of this very loudly and in public.

Wayne's behavior toward me and the Historical Commission, and frankly toward anyone who will not kiss his ring, is becoming increasingly unhinged. I am very concerned that he is at best exhibiting significant anger management issues, and at worst is showing signs of violent psychosis. I believe very firmly that it is only a matter of time before he harms someone. His rage toward me was frightening to behold, despite being completely unwarranted.

The question before you all is simple: will you allow this type of behavior toward volunteers of the town to continue? Or will you take whatever steps are necessary to protect the people who give so generously of their time and talents?

This is not a one-off occurrence, this is a pattern of abusive behavior that can be traced back to his feud with the previous town administrator, which was also based only on his own paranoia and narcissistic behavior. Now that she is gone, he has simply found another victim for his anger.

Additional items of note:

1. The New Bedford Whaling Museum had made an indefinite loan of the Nimrod Cannon to the Town of Fairhaven, but rescinded the loan after being insulted and abused by Wayne Oliveira when he was Chair of the Historical Commission. The present gift in perpetuity of said cannon by the Museum was precipitated by a bridge-building effort by the current commission members.

2. Mr. Eric Dawicki of the Northeast Maritime Institute initially refused to have any dealings with the Historical Commission regarding the moving of the Nimrod Cannon because Wayne Oliveira had accused him of property theft in keeping the cannon at the NMI. In fact, the Whaling Museum had asked Mr. Dawicki to keep the cannon, and there is paperwork to prove it.

3. The streetlight project around Town Hall, which Wayne likes to claim as "his project," actually predated his involvement and only became viable when other people took on a leadership role. The second phase of that project is not being overseen by the Historical Commission, but rather the Fairhaven Improvement Association. The reason for this is that the major donors of phase one refused to work on the project if Wayne Oliveira was involved, due to his rude treatment of them.

The current members of the Historical Commission have made tireless efforts to provide public access to historic sites in town, and to build bridges and form meaningful collaborations with other groups for the benefit of the town and its citizens. This is evident in the many visitors to the Old Stone Schoolhouse and the Washington Street Firehouse, both of which remained closed to the public for the entirety of Wayne Oliveira's tenure as chair.

If you will not do anything to protect the members & volunteers of this town, then my resignation from the Historical Commission will follow shortly. That's not a threat, because I can easily be replaced and none of my ego or sense of self-worth is tied up in serving on the Historical Commission. I do this only as a way to give back, and neither ask for nor wish for acknowledgement.

I leave that decision entirely in your hands.

Best regards,  
Michael J. Kelly  
Chair, Fairhaven Historical Commission

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## Re: Fourth of July

1 message

**Beth Luey** <beth.luey@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 4, 2025 at 12:36 PM

To: Historical Commission <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov" <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, "selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov" <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

As one of the targets of Mr. Oliveira's rage, I agree with everything Mr. Kelly has said. I would regard silence on the part of the Selectboard and town officials as complicity in his behavior.

Beth Luey

Member, Fairhaven Historical Commission and Community Preservation Committee

On Fri, Jul 4, 2025 at 12:23 PM Historical Commission <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov> wrote:  
FYI

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

From: **Historical Commission** <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Date: Fri, Jul 4, 2025 at 12:19 PM

Subject: Fourth of July

To: Select Board <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Natalie A. Mello <natalieamello@gmail.com>, George Samia <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Charles K Murphy Sr <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Keith Silvia <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Anne Carreiro <acarreiro@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Andrew Romano <Andrewromanorealtor@gmail.com>, Michael Jenney <mjenney@fairhaven-ma.gov>

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At 10am, I received a phone call from an unhinged and irate Wayne Oliveira, accusing me of ruining "his" ceremony by taking the flag. When I pointed out that I had left the flag in the possession of Militia members, he began to verbally abuse me and reiterate that his ceremony was being ruined.

Per the prearranged agreement (times provided by Wayne,) I returned to the fort at 10:20am to lock things back up. Seeing the flag flying, I said to Wayne "I see you were able to find the flag, that's good."

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Wayne's behavior toward me and the Historical Commission, and frankly toward anyone who will not kiss his ring, is becoming increasingly unhinged. I am very concerned that he is at best exhibiting significant anger management issues, and at worst is showing signs of violent psychosis. I believe very firmly that it is only a matter of time before he harms someone. His rage toward me was frightening to behold, despite being completely unwarranted.

The question before you all is simple: will you allow this type of behavior toward volunteers of the town to continue? Or will you take whatever steps are necessary to protect the people who give so generously of their time and talents?

This is not a one-off occurrence, this is a pattern of abusive behavior that can be traced back to his feud with the previous town administrator, which was also based only on his own paranoia and narcissistic behavior. Now that she is gone, he has simply found another victim for his anger.

Additional items of note:

1. The New Bedford Whaling Museum had made an indefinite loan of the Nimrod Cannon to the Town of Fairhaven, but rescinded the loan after being insulted and abused by Wayne Oliveira when he was Chair of the Historical Commission. The present gift in perpetuity of said cannon by the Museum was precipitated by a bridge-building effort by the current commission members.
2. Mr. Eric Dawicki of the Northeast Maritime Institute initially refused to have any dealings with the Historical Commission regarding the moving of the Nimrod Cannon because Wayne Oliveira had accused him of property theft in keeping the cannon at the NMI. In fact, the Whaling Museum had asked Mr. Dawicki to keep the cannon, and there is paperwork to prove it.
3. The streetlight project around Town Hall, which Wayne likes to claim as "his project," actually predated his involvement and only became viable when other people took on a leadership role. The second phase of that project is not being overseen by the Historical Commission, but rather the Fairhaven Improvement Association. The reason for this is that the major donors of phase one refused to work on the project if Wayne Oliveira was involved, due to his rude treatment of them.

The current members of the Historical Commission have made tireless efforts to provide public access to historic sites in town, and to build bridges and form meaningful collaborations with other groups for the benefit of the town and its citizens. This is evident in the many visitors to the Old Stone Schoolhouse and the Washington Street Firehouse, both of which remained closed to the public for the entirety of Wayne Oliveira's tenure as chair.

If you will not do anything to protect the members & volunteers of this town, then my resignation from the Historical Commission will follow shortly. That's not a threat, because I can easily be replaced and none of my ego or sense of self-worth is tied up in serving on the Historical Commission. I do this only as a way to give back, and neither ask for nor wish for acknowledgement.

I leave that decision entirely in your hands.

Best regards,  
Michael J. Kelly  
Chair, Fairhaven Historical Commission

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## Fairhaven Historical Commission Concerns

1 message

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**nbek88@gmail.com** <nbek88@gmail.com>

Sat, Jul 5, 2025 at 1:41 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov, Silvia Keith <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov

Cc: Nate Bekemeier <nbek88@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

As a member of the Fairhaven Historical Commission who only recently (FVN Homecoming Day) experienced first-hand Mr. Oliveira's unwarranted disrespect for my volunteer service to our town, I need to add my concern for myself and fellow HC members who have been the subject of Mr. Oliveira's personal attacks. Especially learning of events which transpired July 4th at Fort Phoenix.

Mr. Oliveira has made our work at the Commission unreasonably difficult and unnecessarily complicated.

Commission members are working to open several of our Historic properties to the public offering insights into our town's history and are enjoying recent successes in doing so.

We are finding it increasingly difficult to work towards our shared HC goals if Mr. Oliveira continues his increasingly disruptive and threatening personal attacks.

Sincerely,  
Nate Bekemeier



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## July 4th Parade incident

1 message

July 4th Parade <july4thparade@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Sun, Jul 6, 2025 at 9:16 AM

To: Charles K Murphy Sr <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Cc: Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>, George Samia <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Dear Chair Murphy,

We just wanted to make you aware of a situation that happened at the check-in site for the July 4th Parade.

We were notified by one of the parade watchers that a float had arrived that I might want to look at, it seems that one of our registered participants showed up with a float that had a life size poster of Donald Trump wearing a MAGA hat and on the front of the float they were flying a Trump flag.

It clearly stated in the rule when they registered:

### Political Participation

Political candidates and their supporters must participate respectfully. **No political statements, inappropriate behaviors, disruption of the event**, violation of the parade rules, or disregard of parade marshals will be accepted. We ask that all candidates and their supporters remember that this is a community fun family event.

It was the feeling of the parade coordinators that the float was inappropriate for the July 4th parade, it would be controversial and went against the rules of "No political statements in the parade"

The participant was asked to remove the poster and Trump flag and she could remain in the parade with all of the remaining decorations. She refused to do that and stated that if I have to remove

those items then I'm not going to be in the parade. I stated that it would not be permitted and she chose to leave the parade. It is our opinion that she was just attempting to get a rise from the public by making this float and it would be disruptive to the event.

I assume that she will be making a complaint based on her comments that day. We will be happy to follow up with any defense of our actions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Wayne & Vicki Oliveira  
Parade & Ceremony Coordinators

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## Historical Commission

1 message

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David Wilson <davewilson235@yahoo.com>  
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 4:56 PM

To: Fairhaven Select Board  
Through: Chairman Murphy

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you in concern regarding a recent action taken by the Historical Commission of cutting the locks off and changing the code on the Spring Street Fire Station. I have been a key holder for the "Fire Houses" for over 18 years. Today I find out that we will need to go sign a key out, or basically be vetted by the Historical Commission? These are Town of Fairhaven Buildings, with Town of Fairhaven Antique Fire Apparatus in them. This to me has gone down very under handedly, and quite frankly seems like the Protection Society and members are being treated like criminals, or like we did something wrong. I have spent my entire life volunteering for this town. I have spent thousands of hours driving those fire engines, maintaining and caring for them. I have spent hundreds of dollars of my own money on these for fuel and parts to keep them running because our budget is so small. This was insulting to find out the locks and codes were changed. I have been called by the central alarm company at all hours of the night over the years for alarms that have gone off, I would never hesitate to go right to the fire house to make sure it was locked up and nothing was happening. To think that all of a sudden I no longer have access or a code to the building is frustrating. We have never once denied those engines being at any occasion, function, parades, funeral, or any other event in this town that they were requested to be at. We never ask for any money in return we are volunteers, and most of the time the fuel comes out of our own pockets for these events.

We do it for the love of the town. I grew up riding those engines as a kid, it got me roped into the fire service where I still currently am a Town of Fairhaven employee as a Lieutenant on the Call Fire Department.

The very few key holders (for the locks up until cut off) for these buildings should be reissued keys, and the code. The Historical Commission to me have far exceeded its boundaries and is pushing away the volunteers who have been maintaining and managing these buildings and engines. We are the only ones who go into the buildings and we are the only ones who actually can operate those antiques engines, let alone start them.

These fire houses and fire engines aren't just buildings or antiques to us, they are a pride, a passion, a reminder of the people who rode them before us. They are the pride of the past. These are a staple in our community.

I am asking that you please address this situation.

Thank you,

David Wilson  
256 Huttleston Ave  
Fairhaven

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## Fwd: Complaint

1 message

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

From: <[wayne.oliveira@comcast.net](mailto:wayne.oliveira@comcast.net)>

Date: Sun, Jul 13, 2025 at 10:05 PM

Subject: Complaint

To: <[GSamia@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:GSamia@fairhaven-ma.gov)>

Cc: <[cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov)>, <[ARomano@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:ARomano@fairhaven-ma.gov)>, <[asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov)>, <[ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov)>, <[namello@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:namello@fairhaven-ma.gov)>

July 13, 2025

Mr. George Samia,  
Interim Town Administrator

Dear Mr. Samia

This correspondence serves as a formal complaint regarding the conduct of **Michael Kelly, Chair of the Historical Commission and/or the individual responsible for administering the Historical Commission Facebook Page.**

On Saturday, July 12th, Mr. Kelly dedicated significant time and effort to what appeared to be damage control, specifically in response to the Historical Commission's decision to change the locks on the Protecting Society buildings. During this period, he also disseminated video footage from an emergency Historical Commission meeting, convened on July 10th. This video was explicitly used to amplify and promote ongoing, accusations directed at me. (See attachments provided)

It is unacceptable for a town-sanctioned social media page to be used in this manner. Mr. Kelly is clearly leveraging a town platform to advance his personal agenda and a one-sided narrative, targeting me as a private citizen and the two groups with which I am associated. Additionally, he made disparaging posts on his private Facebook page. This conduct is a blatant violation of the town's social media policy.

This pattern of behavior constitutes a concerning escalation and borders on sustained harassment. Such conduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

I expect a prompt investigation into these matters.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Wayne V. Oliveira**

[125 Bridge Street Fairhaven, MA 02719](#)

3 attachments



IMG\_5819.PNG  
542K



IMG\_1990.JPEG  
478K



IMG\_5821.PNG  
3693K



Old Town Fairhaven



## Fairhaven Historical Commission



★ Rising contributor 7m •

It had not been our intention to post this video, though it is available for public viewing at [FairhavenTV.com](https://FairhavenTV.com). But recent events require us to ensure more people are aware of the situation.

On Thursday, July 10, the Historical Commission convene an emergency meeting to address incidents of verbal abuse, harassment, and intimidation of Commission volunteers by a private citizen. This occurred while the volunteers were performing their obligations to the Town.

If you have concerns about the way the Historical Commission is being run, you may send an email, request time on our agenda, or petition the Selectboard. Attacking volunteers is despicable & improper.

We at the Commission will not tolerate this type of aggressive behavior. We all of us, as citizens of Fairhaven, should not tolerate it either.





**Michael J. Kelly**

27m · 🌐



The usual suspects in town are spreading lies & misinformation to further their personal agenda, whatever that may be. Maybe grow up and act like adults rather than toddlers. The Firehouses are town property, not your private clubhouse.



**Fairhaven Historical Commission**

44m · 🌐

A note on new locks, since per usual a small group is determined to spread misinformation to create drama where there isn't any. We hope reasonable people will take note.

The Historical Commission has also advised the Protecting Society of the very simple way that they may obtain a new set of keys so that they may continue to utilize the property.

If you move into a new house, one of the first things you are advised to do is to change the locks.

Please don't continue to spread falsehoods. The process to obtain keys is very simple and reasonable.



## Fairhaven Historical Commission

6m • 🌐

Once more for those in the back:

1. Yes the locks were changed yesterday at Noon, per a vote taken 6 months ago and Selectboard approval.
2. Yes we offered to meet a member of the Protecting Society at 11am this morning to give them new keys & codes.

Explain how giving them new keys within 24 hours is "locking them out?" Someone make it make sense.



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## harassment and silence

1 message

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**Beth Luey** <beth.luey@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 13, 2025 at 10:44 AM

To: Historical Commission <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov

I have been a minor target of the recent harassment. More disturbing than childish name calling (directed at me) and the more vicious attacks directed at my colleagues is the failure of the Select Board to acknowledge that a problem exists and to take responsibility for resolving it. Even a simple statement that such behavior is intolerable would have helped. It is part of your job to set the tone and standards of public discourse. Please take that seriously.

Beth Luey



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## Fwd: Formal Apology of July 4th

1 message

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**Historical Commission** <historicalcommission@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 8:41 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Town Clerk <Clerk@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Samia George <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Forwarding for public record, as it was issued to a Selectboard member and marked as a Formal Apology.

Begin forwarded message:

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

From: **M McDonald** <mmcdonald120@yahoo.com>

Date: Sat, Jul 5, 2025 at 7:09 PM

Subject: Formal Apology of July 4th

To: <namello@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



**Militia Apology (1).pdf**

39K

Good Afternoon Mrs. Mello,

My name is Matthew McDonald. I am the Lieutenant Commander and Sergeant at Arms of the Fairhaven Village Militia. I'd like to formally apologize for the actions that were taken by another group member. The actions taken were totally unprofessional and inappropriate for how we would like our group to be perceived as an integral part of preserving the town's history and integrity. We do not want one person's actions to define the group.

I would like to take it upon myself to build a better relationship with the Historical Commission and the Fairhaven Village Militia. I have many great ideas for historical events that can take place at Fort Phoenix next year and years to come to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. I am in talks with Ms. Botelho on working together to put these events on in the future. These events would be great for both our group and the town of Fairhaven. I have been a standing member of the Fairhaven Village Militia for thirteen years and I have seen and understand what the group means to our town and how it helps educate the general public.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can work together moving forward. Again, I am deeply sorry for the actions that took place on July 4th. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Best Regards,

Matthew McDonald

## FAYA

1 message

**Krystal Lunn** <krystal.lunn@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 7:34 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Good Morning,

I am writing today to ask for your support. My children have participated in Faya cheer and football. Last year we took a break because I coached the prior year where a child was physically and verbally assaulting other children and two assistant coaches were left to handle the situation because the head coach and cheer coordinator were never there. When asked to have the child removed for safety reasons I was told I didn't understand inclusion. Inclusion does not mean allowing a child to physically hurt other children and the child was not a special needs child. I decided to pull my children and take the year off till the current board stepped down. When you coach you take the oath to protect the children you are coaching and that is all I was doing. I signed both my children up this year hoping for a better outcome as both my children love this sport. I received the email I will share where my son was completely discriminated against for being autistic. As I know you cannot do anything about that but you can stop them from using town property to practice and play there games. I am more than willing to discuss if you have more questions. I hope you all would understand the importance of inclusion and making sports available to ALL children.

Thank You,  
Krystal Lunn

### 3 attachments



**IMG\_0529.png**  
430K



**IMG\_0531.png**  
427K



**IMG\_0530.png**  
417K

5:38

5G



**Shelby Hirtle** Jul 14

to me, President ▾



Dear Krystal,

On behalf of the Fairhaven Acushnet Board of Directors, I want to acknowledge receipt of your 2025 season registration for both Gabriel (12U Football) and Adeline (Cheer).

After extensive review and careful consideration by our full board, we have made the decision to deny both registrations, due to safety concerns.

The request for your son to participate in 12U football has been assessed with player safety as our top priority. Based on ability and the physical nature of the 12U level, we have determined that it would present a significant safety concern—most importantly for your son and the other players on the field as well. This decision is final and non-negotiable. We will not be reconsidering or reversing this outcome.

In addition, Adeline's cheer registration has also been denied. This decision is based on the history of ongoing conflict during past seasons, including challenges with cooperation, disruptive behavior, and the repeated public criticism and shaming of league officials and volunteers. We

← Reply

↩ Reply all

→ Forward



5:38

5G<sup>U</sup> 



shaming of league officials and volunteers. We understand how much Adeline may enjoy participating in cheer, and while she will not be placed on a Fairhaven Acushnet team this season, we are more than willing to sign a waiver should you choose to have her participate with the Challenger Cheer program at Dighton-Rehoboth, which may be a more suitable option, for her safety as well as the safety of others on the team.

Please understand these decisions were not made lightly, but are in the best interest of your son, daughter, our other players, opposing teams, volunteers, and the integrity of our program.

Upon confirmed receipt of this email, I will process a full refund for both registrations, as our associations main concern is always the safety of all of the athletes in these programs above all else.

The President of RISMA will be CC'd on this communication to ensure transparency and documentation.

Sincerely,  
Eric Parker - President  
Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Football & Cheer

On Jul 14, 2025 at 9:47 PM Krystal

 Reply

 Reply all

 Forward



5:38

5G<sup>U</sup> 



me 5:30 AM

to Shelby, President ▾



Good Morning,  
Refusing to allow Gabriel to participate because of a diagnosis of autism is discrimination and illegal. He plays on many sports teams and has never been denied because of his diagnosis and has never been a safety risk. I also asked last year to have both my child allowed a waiver to ORR teams and was completely denied and told if I wanted them to play they had to play for Fairhaven and now being told they can go to Dighton Rehoboth where they know no one one the ridiculous. My concerns were with Jen and allowing children to be physically assaulted and refusing to handle the situation. That's not a safety concern but my son's diagnosis is? I will be reaching out to the Fairhaven Select Board asking for them to block you from using Livsey Park and Fairhaven's football field because in Fairhaven we are about making everything inclusive for all and both are town property.  
Thank You,  
Krystal Lunn

On Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 10:25 PM Shelby Hirtle <shelbyhirtle@gmail.com> wrote:

↩ Reply

↩ Reply all

➦ Forward



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## EDC

1 message

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**Miles Grant** <thegreenmiles@gmail.com>  
To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Wed, Jul 16, 2025 at 9:24 AM

It has come to my attention that Cathy Melanson said at Monday's Select Board meeting that I voted to get rid of the Planning Board representative to the EDC. That's not true.

In the opening minutes of my very first EDC meeting on June 11, Cathy said EDC had already decided to get rid of the Planning Board representative, then Alyssa Botelho suggested changing it from a representative to a liaison. As I was being introduced to the Committee, I said we should make sure that the Planning Board and EDC have clear roles and missions and support each other's work. No vote was taken.

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/11515030?video=1092847738>

The EDC then discussed whether Route 6 should be rezoned and whether apartments should be built in Cushman Park, so there clearly seemed to be interest in discussing mutually related issues outside narrow mission statements.

I'm not concerned with what title the Planning Board member who participates in EDC meetings is given, but planning and economic development clearly go hand in hand. As we look around at the growing number of vacant storefronts around town, including in the center, I remain very eager to support Alyssa's work on this increasingly important issue.

Miles Grant  
Fairhaven Planning Board

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## Discriminatory Practices

1 message

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**Pamela Whynot** <pamelaewhynot@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 17, 2025 at 6:33 PM

To: Vincent Furtado <vfurtado@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Josh Crabb <jcrabb@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>, George Samia <TownAdmin@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, namello@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Select Board Members,

I am writing to request your leadership and support in taking a stand on the rights of people with disabilities to participate fully in our community.

Recently, the children of one of our citizens, Krystal Lynn, were denied the right to participate in a local sports league. The reasons cited for the denial were specifically related to their disabilities and were discriminatory and in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as a violation of Massachusetts civil rights laws.

While this league is a private league over which the town of Fairhaven has no purview, this sports entity uses public town spaces for their activities.

Fairhaven should continue to be a place where all individuals are welcome, respected, and included. By allowing a private organization to use public property for discriminatory practices, the town itself is also responsible.

I am writing to respectfully request that you deny the FAYA Pop Warner Football and Cheer the ability to utilize town property for their games until they rectify their discriminatory practices, and make a commitment to provide an inclusive opportunity for sports participation.

Our town should not be providing spaces for organizations to violate the ADA laws.

With gratitude for your dedication to all our citizens,

Pamela Whynot, LCSW

[4 School St, Fairhaven, MA 02719](#)



6:13



I signed Gabriel up for football hoping **FAYA Pop Warner Football and Cheer** had changed with the new board. Apparently having autism is a safety issue but allowing kids to assault others isn't. We can't make them allow him to play because they are a private organization but we can keep them from using town property like Livsey Park and the Fairhaven High football field because in Fairhaven we are INCLUSIVE for all. I will be reaching out to the Select Board and School Committee today and urge others to. Sad part is one of the board members has an autistic child you would think she wouldn't discriminate.

5:38

Shelby Hirtle Jul 14  
to me, President

Krystal,

On behalf of the Fairhaven Acushnet Board of Directors, I want to acknowledge receipt of your season registration for both Gabriel (Football) and Adeline (Cheer).

After an extensive review and careful consideration by the full board, we have made the decision to deny both registrations, due to safety concerns.

Your request for your son to participate in 12U Football has been assessed with player safety as the top priority. Based on ability and the physical demands of the 12U level, we have determined that Gabriel would present a significant safety concern for himself and the other players on the field as well. This decision is non-negotiable. We will not be reconsidering this outcome.

In addition, Adeline's cheer registration has also been denied. This decision is based on the

5:38

ing of league officials and volunteers. We understand how much Adeline may enjoy participating in cheer, and while she will not be on a Fairhaven Acushnet team this season, we are more than willing to sign a waiver if you choose to have her participate in the Challenger Cheer program at Dighton-Rehoboth, which may be a more suitable option for safety as well as the safety of other players.

We understand these decisions were not made lightly, but are in the best interest of our children, our other players, opposing teams, volunteers, and the integrity of our league.

Upon confirmed receipt of this email, I will process a full refund for both registrations. Our associations main concern is always the safety of all of the athletes in these programs and nothing else.

The President of RISMA will be CC'd on this communication to ensure transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,  
Mark - President

5:38

me 5:30 AM  
to Shelby, President

Morning,

I am writing to allow Gabriel to participate because a diagnosis of autism is discrimination and not a disability. He plays on many sports teams and has never been denied because of his diagnosis. I have never been a safety risk. I also asked last year to have both my child allowed a waiver to play on both teams and was completely denied and when I wanted them to play they had to play for Dighton-Rehoboth where they know no one. This is ridiculous. My concerns were with Jen and the coaches letting children to be physically assaulted and not knowing how to handle the situation. That's not a safety concern but my son's diagnosis is? I am reaching out to the Fairhaven Select Board to ask them to block you from using Livestock and Fairhaven's football field because we are about making everything safe for all and both are town property.

Thank You,  
Al Lunn

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## For Public Record from Concerned Citizens: Letter Regarding the Lack of Support for the Fairhaven Historical Commission

1 message

M Kelly <mjkelly072@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 10:39 AM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Natalie Mello <natalieamello@gmail.com>, Keith Silvia <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Charles K Murphy Sr <cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov>, aromano@fairhaven-ma.gov, asaunders@fairhaven-ma.gov, Samia George <gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Anne Carreiro <acarreiro@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Alyssa Botelho <abotelho@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Town Clerk <clerk@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Cc: Nate Bekemeier <nbek88@gmail.com>, Michael Silva <mjsarch@comcast.net>

Good morning,

As you know, as of yesterday the Town of Fairhaven has had three members in good standing of the Historical Commission resign. While each of them experienced varying degrees of the systematic harassment of Commission members by a private citizen on Town property, they ultimately resigned due to the lack of any support or action on the part of you, the Selectboard & Town. In other words, they didn't resign because of any one individual's behavior, abhorrent as it may have been; they resigned because of your failure to act.

We now understand that the Selectboard is attempting to use the First Amendment as an excuse for inaction. Harassment is not covered by the First Amendment; harassment is not protected speech. This is well established, in both federal and state case law, as any first year law student could tell you. If you have been advised otherwise, perhaps Fairhaven deserves better legal counsel.

We further understand that the official letter of complaint and request for action that was supported by a unanimous & legally binding vote of the Historical Commission on July 10, 2025 has been squelched due to a dubious and likely erroneous claim of an open meeting law violation. Oddly, this claim of a "violation" does not even stem from the meeting itself, which is not only public record, but was conducted at the advice of the Town Administrator under guidance by Town Counsel, and followed every legal protocol.

Further, while the claim of first amendment protections for the harasser are spurious at best, the responsibilities of a town to protect appointed officials are clear:

**Third-Party Harassment:** A town can also be held liable for harassment perpetrated by non-employees (like contractors or visitors) if it knew or should have known about the harassment and failed to take reasonable steps to prevent or stop it.

**Duty to Investigate and Correct:** If a town is aware of harassment, it has a duty to investigate the complaints promptly and take appropriate corrective action to stop the behavior and prevent future occurrences. Failure to do so could lead to liability.

The Town of Fairhaven has sat by and done nothing during a consistent pattern of harassment and abuse of appointed commission members by a private citizen. A private citizen with a long and documented history of harassing others, including the town's previous Town Administrator, who also happened to be Fairhaven's first woman of color in a position of authority. Interestingly, the language used against the former Town Administrator is verbatim to the language used against members of the Historical Commission.

The Town has now lost three dedicated and committed commissioners who were actively working to preserve Fairhaven's historical locations as well as promoting tourism and its potential for desperately needed revenue. In the process, the Town has opened itself up to accusations of favoritism and cronyism at the least, and at worse to the risk of potential future litigation. A suit brought by the harasser for a claim of civil rights violations would most certainly fail on its lack of merit; the same may not be true of claims brought by victims of harassment themselves that go uninvestigated and unaddressed despite numerous complaints and requests for help.

For the avoidance of doubt, this is not meant to be taken as any form of threat: we have neither the interest nor the intent to sue the Town over this or any other matter. We would not want to put Fairhaven through such an ordeal. We are simply providing one last service to the people of Fairhaven in trying to ensure that taxpayer money is not wasted on avoidable legal issues brought on by negligence or inaction. Fairhaven has nothing to fear from us.

That said, the people of Fairhaven deserve better, especially those who selflessly volunteer on behalf of the Town.

Best regards,

Michael Kelly      Nate Bekemeier      Michael Silva

## To The Town Select Board,

My name is Sandra Wilder and I'm filing a formal complaint with the board due to an incident that happened to my husband and I at the town's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade this year. My husband & I have been in the parade the last 4 years. This year we spent many hours & money on our float for the parade, we were in line in our spot for the parade when Wayne Oliveira came up to my husband and I yelling at us to take down our President Trump stand up & our Trump flag or we were not allowed in the parade, he yelled "No-thing Political", it's in the rules and I replied "it's not Political it's the President of the United States." To which Wayne yelled at us "It's not my President!" I again replied if you live in the



-2-

United States, he's your President!  
But we had to leave the parade  
because we refused to take  
our President off our float. We  
were treated unfairly due  
to Waynes hatred for our  
President. He had no right to  
take away anyones free speech,  
there was nothing lewd, disrespect-  
ful or rude. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
is the most Political Holiday  
of the year, we celebrate our  
freedoms and to have some-  
one try and take away my  
1<sup>st</sup> Amendment is totally  
UnConstitutional. If a rule is  
made stating nothing political  
then any member of politics  
shouldn't march in the parade  
any political insignia like  
Uncle Sam, Statue of Liberty,  
any political statements should  
not be allowed. In last years  
parade a member of the planning  
board & others were carrying  
flyers of candidates who were

running for state representative and it was allowed, nothing was said about it but because of Wayne's obvious hatred for our President he tried to shut my rights down. All I'm asking of the board is to have Wayne's rule taken out, because no one has the right to take anyone's rights away. If we can have people wearing Uncle Sam, Statue of Liberty Costumes and yet we can't have our President on a float on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July that is absolutely disgusting. I got a lot of support on Facebook when I posted about what happened and it also got national attention on X & Truth Social when it was shared by others who saw my post and it received a lot of support. Wayne's behavior was ridiculous & unprofessional. He never had the nerve to



-4-

private message me or messenger thanking me for bashing him on Facebook calling me immature, but he didn't think twice about how he treated my husband & I when he was yelling at us in front of people.

This town may have many liberals/democrats but there are also many independents/Republicans who respect our President, we have had to put up with the ridiculous "NO Kings" Protests in this town & as taxpayers in this town if we want to respect & honor our President on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we should not be shut down and have our GOD Given Constitutional Rights taken from us, due to someones hatred. So I'm asking to have the "no political rule" taken out of the parade rules. I'm

-5-

starting here with the Select Board but I will keep going higher if I have to or even sue the Town due to having my Freedom of speech being taken away from me. Wayne Oliveira doesn't belong organizing a parade if he can't set aside his feelings and he thinks he can play sides and allow some other political aspects pass by but shut others down because of his personal feelings. I look forward to hearing back from the Select Board on this issue, I Thank You for your time.

Sincerely,

Sandra Wilder

My Email is: Sandraskids930861@hotmail.com



\* I have also included pictures

① An AI description that says Uncle Sam & Statue of Liberty both represent Political Dissidia as does the American flag which the flag has been passed to parade Tolerkers by people marching in the parade & the above characters costumes were in this year's parade - All Political!

② I also included pictures from the 2024 4th of July Parade when Candidates were marching in the parade to show they were running for a Political position in the upcoming election in 2024.

③ I've also included pics from two recent "No Kings" protests held on Town Property where people held up loud & hurtful signs against the President of the United States and this is allowed but the President's pic is not allowed on Town Property??? Something

is definitely wrong with this.

④ I've also included a pic of the message Wayne Clivine sent me after I commented about how we were treated by him. And please let it be known I never blocked him from the post which was for a Fairhaven Political Opinion Board which I am not in charge of. His wife is also on my main Facebook page, he never made or wanted to comment on the post because he got so much negative feedback for what he did so it was easier for him to say I blocked him, which was a lie!!

⑤ I also sent pics of my float to show there was nothing loud, hurtful or disrespectful but we were treated otherwise.

⑥ So in (exclusion, what I'm asking of the Select Board is to fix a wrong!

I want to see the rule of "NO Political" taken out of the rules of the Parade (then the organizers cannot even follow their own rules), anyone who cannot set aside personal feelings for a town event shouldn't be in any position when it comes to holding or organizing the event. I've tired of the bias in this town & it needs to stop! If the Select Board will not do anything about this, I will take it to higher authorities & even speak to a lawyer (which I have done already with people I know who are lawyers) and I could definitely seek a case against Wayne & the Town, but that is not my intention, I would be satisfied w/ a public apology & the rule taken out of the Parade rules - No one should take anyone's rights away - especially on a day



wishes we celebrate our  
freedoms !!

Sincerely,  
Sandra Wilder

I look forward to hearing  
back from the board on  
this matter.

9:56

5G



Sandra >



HAPPY 4TH of JULY Everyone !!!!! Our Float for our

+ Text Message - RCS

9:55

5G



Sandra >



Text Message • RCS



9:56

5G



Sandra



Yes, both Uncle Sam and the Statue of Liberty are considered political and national symbols of the United States. Uncle Sam primarily represents the U.S. government and its ideals, particularly in contexts of patriotism, military recruitment, and political discourse. The Statue of Liberty, on the other hand, is a broader symbol of freedom, democracy, and immigration, embodying the nation's welcoming spirit and ideals.

#### Elaboration:

##### Uncle Sam:

First appearing as a cartoon character during the War of 1812, Uncle Sam evolved to represent the U.S. government and its various facets, including taxation and military service. He is often depicted in political cartoons and propaganda, particularly during wartime, urging citizens to support the nation's endeavors.

##### Statue of Liberty:

Originally a gift from France, the Statue of Liberty has become a powerful symbol of freedom and opportunity, particularly for immigrants arriving in the United States. It is often associated with the ideals of democracy, liberty, and the pursuit of a better life.



Text Message • RCS





9:56

5G



Sandra >



Like



Comment



Send



Share



Christine Wilson-Sylvia + 50

36 shares

Most relevant ▾

1:16

5G



Wayne Oliveira



12:41 PM



Thanks for bashing me on Facebook and blocking me from your post. Very mature



You can now message and call each other and see info like active status and when you have read messages.



Oh you're so welcome and it won't end here either ! I' m going to the Town Hall with this, I will fight this tooth & nail you had NO RIGHT AT ALL telling me to take mine & Your PRESIDENT of the United States off my Float ! July 4th is a Political Holiday celebration our



AI Overview

Share



Text Message • RCS

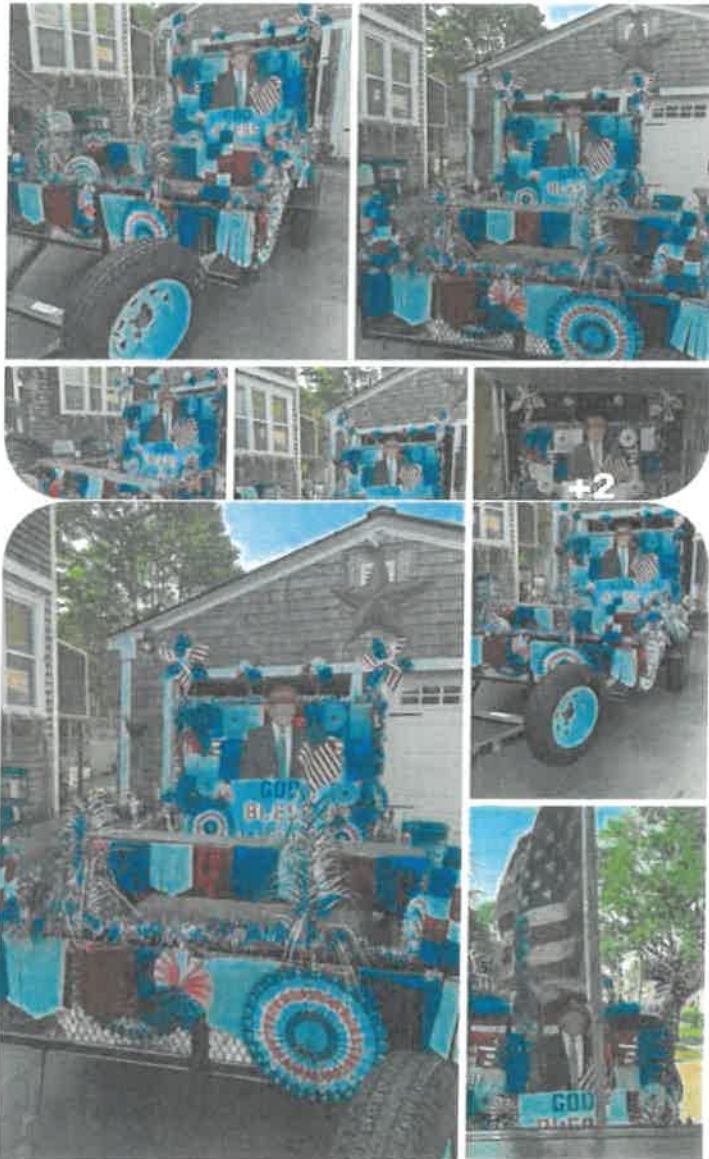






Sandra >

\*\*\*\*\* Wayne Oliveira needs to seek help for major TDS & thinking he can take people's UNALIENABLE RIGHTS away from them on a day we Celebrate our FREEDOMS !!!! 🙏❤️🇺🇸👊



Like Comment Send Share



Text Message • RCS





## **Fairhaven Firefighters Association Local 1555**



**Jonathan Cox**  
*President*  
**Chauncey Burr**  
*Secretary*

**Timothy Reilly**  
*Vice President*  
**Nathan Rebello**  
*Trustee*

**Ryan Amado**  
*Treasurer*  
**Chad Fitzgerald**  
*Member at Large*

### **To the Members of the Fairhaven Selectboard,**

We are writing in light of the recent tragedy in Fall River, where up to ten lives were lost. This heartbreaking event serves as a stark reminder of the immense burden placed on fire departments across the Commonwealth—asked to do more with less. The Fairhaven Fire Department is not immune to these challenges, and we must acknowledge that a tragedy of this magnitude is not beyond the realm of possibility here in our own community.

The Gabriel House in Fall River was home to approximately 70 residents at the time of the fire. In Fairhaven, we have four similar facilities: Atria Assisted Living (approximately 60 residents), the Royal of Fairhaven and Our Lady's Haven (each with around 100 residents), and Alden Court Nursing Home (with capacity for close to 140 residents). These facilities are only part of the broader picture, which includes additional high-occupancy residences such as Fairhaven Village, Oxford Terrace, Oxford School Apartments, and McGann Terrace, among others.

Given our current staffing model, the Fairhaven Fire Department could have as few as 2 to 7 firefighters initially responding to incidents at these locations, depending on concurrent call volume. We rely heavily on off-duty firefighters responding from home and assistance from mutual aid partners. Currently, we operate two ambulances, each staffed with two firefighter-paramedics. These same firefighter-paramedics cross-staff our ladder truck and second engine. If both ambulances are out on calls—as they often are, given our rising call volume—we are left with only three firefighters to respond with the front-line engine, and that is assuming full staffing for that day.

This initial response window is critical. Fires can double in size every 30 seconds, making swift and sufficient staffing essential for life safety, property conservation, and fire suppression. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), each fire apparatus should be staffed with four firefighters.

In 2022, the Fairhaven Firefighters Association commissioned an independent staffing study. This study considered factors such as population, geographic area, call volume, and the number of high-risk facilities. It recommended a staffing level of 12 firefighters per shift. We are currently operating with only 7 per shift, and at times, just 6—half of the recommended number. Despite our repeated attempts over the past several years to raise this issue with both the Town and the Fire Chief, our concerns appear to have gone unheard.

We respectfully urge the Selectboard to take this matter seriously. While we understand the town faces budgetary and logistical constraints, the Fairhaven Firefighters Association remains ready and willing to collaborate with the town administration on a comprehensive plan to improve staffing levels and emergency response capabilities. Let us act proactively, rather than reactively, before tragedy strikes closer to home.

Respectfully,

**Executive Board**  
**Fairhaven Firefighters Association Local 1555**