



# FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA

August 11, 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

REVISED

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2025 AUG 7 AM10:20

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2025 AUG 7 AM11:14

## A. PUBLIC COMMENT

## B. APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

1. Fifteen Minute Parking Sign: Benoit Square
2. Handicap Parking Sign: 38 Middle Street
3. Use of Town Hall Auditorium: Girl Scouts Award Ceremony, September 3, 2025
4. Appointment Request: Historical Commission: Patrick Carr, Gary Lavalette, Nicholas Jones, Shayna Jones
5. Appointment Request: Zoning Board of Appeals, Full Member: Kristen Russell

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2025 AUG 7 PM2:10

## C. ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. Request to Reclassify Receptionist Positions: Council on Aging
2. Combined Sewer Overflow/Water Quality Concerns
3. Atlas Tack Working Group Update
4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure: Douglas Brady
5. Select Board Support Letters for Local Aid Increases

## D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Staffing Updates
2. Other

## E. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

## F. MINUTES

1. Accept the Select Board Open Session minutes of July 28, 2025
2. Accept the Select Board Executive Session minutes of July 28, 2025

## G. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Contact Forms: Michelle Costen, Will Gardner-SouthCoast Places for People

## H. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting: *Monday, August 25, 2025* at 6:30pm

## I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 (Fairhaven School Committee v. Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals)

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. (Fire Chief)

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.)

## ADJOURN



FAIRHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC OR PARKING CONTROL

**\*\*OFFICIAL USE ONLY\*\***

Location: 342 MAIN STREET Intersection of: N/A  
Control: 15 minute parking Approval Date: 8/7/25

**\*\* TO BE FILLED IN BY REQUESTING PARTY \*\***

Requested by: <u>Jorge E. Kosséfi</u>	Location: <u>Front of building</u>
Address: <u>342 Main St</u>	Intersection of: _____
<u>Fairhaven</u>	
Telephone: <u>508 997-7587</u>	Date: <u>6/1/25</u>
Type of Control Requested: <u>15 min parking for take out customers</u>	
Reason for Request: <u>15 minute parking for customers</u>	

**\*\*OFFICIAL USE ONLY\*\***

Approved: ☒

Investigated by: Ofc Coelho/0106

Denied: ☐

Seton

Investigation: See Attached Report

[Signature]

Police Chief

8/7/25

Approval Date

Board of Selectmen

Compliance Date



15 Minute Parking Sign Request  
342 Main St. Fairhaven.

Site Survey: Main St is a public way in the Town of Fairhaven. The request for a 15-minute parking only sign is for Galaxy Pizza House which is located between Dean St and Howland Rd on the west side of the roadway. There is currently 2-sided parking permitted on the street with the west side being in front of the businesses and the east side parking on Benoit Square. In the block for this request the street is It is approximately 214 feet long, 33 feet wide. There is centerline striping on the street as well as white fog lines. There is no parking on the west side of Main St south of 340 Main St due to the intersection of Howland Rd. There are multiple multi-family houses on Main St and businesses in this area. Many of these homes do not have off street parking available to them. There are no fire hydrants on Main St in this block.

Request: The applicant is requesting a 15 Minute parking space in front of his business for use by his customers making take out pickups. He stated that during the dinner rush he feels he may lose customers if they cannot find parking in front of his business.

Recommendation: I have spoken to the owners of Fore & Aft Barbershop whose business is in the same building as Galaxy Pizza House, and they support the request. I would recommend the installation of one 15-minute parking sign be placed on Main St in front of Galaxy Pizza House. I am open to working with the business to tailor the hours to his busiest times.

NOTE: The attached pictures are from Google Maps and are an accurate representation of the site.

Respectfully Submitted,

Officer Scott Coelho/0106  
Safety Officer  
Fairhaven Police Department









FAIRHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC OR PARKING CONTROL

\*\*OFFICIAL USE ONLY\*\*

Location: 38 middle st  
Control: HP Parking

Intersection of: N/A  
Approval Date: 8/7/25

\* TO BE FILLED IN BY REQUESTING PARTY \*

Requested by: <u>Donna David</u>	Location: <u>38 middle st</u>
Address: <u>38 middle st</u> <u>Fairhaven</u>	Intersection of: _____
_____	Date: <u>4/15/25</u>
Type of Control Requested: <u>HP Parking space for tenant</u>	
Reason for Request: <u>HP Parking space for tenant.</u>	

\*\*OFFICIAL USE ONLY\*\*

Approved: ☒

Denied: ☐

Investigated by: Ofc Coelho/0106  
Scout

Investigation: See Attached report

Police Chief

8/7/25  
Approval Date

Board of Selectmen

Compliance Date



Handicap Parking Sign Request  
38 Middle St. Fairhaven.

Site Survey: Middle St is a public way in the Town of Fairhaven. The request for a handicap parking only sign is for number 38 which is located between Washington St and Center St on the west side of the roadway. There is currently 1 side parking permitted on the west side of the street. In the block for this request the street is approximately 452 feet long, 25 feet wide. There is no centerline striping on the street. There are multiple multi-family houses on Middle St. Many of these homes do not have off street parking available to them. There are fire hydrants on the east side of the street.

Request: The applicant is requesting a handicap parking space in front of her property for use by her tenant who has a handicap placard. She stated that although she has a driveway the location of the entry door of the house makes it shorter for her to park on the street and walk to the door.

Recommendation: I would support the installation of a handicap sign at this location. It is my recommendation that the sign be placed on north side of the driveway for 38 Middle St. There is approximately 35 feet of space between the driveway of 38 Middle St and an old curb cut for a nonexistent driveway at 40 Middle St. Allowing for the required 5-foot setback from these driveways there is approximately 25 feet for vehicle parking. I do not believe that this will impede snow ban parking during the winter months due to the placement on the west side of the roadway.

NOTE: The attached pictures are from Google Maps and are an accurate representation of the site.

Respectfully Submitted,

Officer Scott Coelho/0106  
Safety Officer  
Fairhaven Police Department









Town of Fairhaven  
Massachusetts  
40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA · 02719

MEMORANDUM

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*To: Select Board*

*From: Town Administrator's Office*

*Date: August 11, 2025*

*Re: Application for the use of Town Hall Auditorium*

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Dear Select Board,

The Girls Scouts of Eastern MA c/o Kelsey Janak of 74 Gammons Rd Acushnet, MA is asking permission for use of the Town Hall Auditorium. They will be holding their award ceremony on September 3, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All fees have been paid and collected in the amount of \$250.

Thank you for your consideration.





# TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

40 CENTER STREET  
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719

## APPLICANT FOR THE USE OF TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

Name of Organization Girls Scout of Eastern MA  
Responsible Officer Kelsey Janak Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address 74 Gammons Rd Acushnet, MA 02743  
Purpose of Use Awards Ceremony for Acushnet Girl Scout Troop  
Date Requested 9/3/2025 Begin Time 5:30 End Time 6:30/7

### REQUESTED USE APPROVED TO AVAILABILITY:

Conditions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Select Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Police Chief/Representative (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Department Inspection (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board of Health (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Building Department Inspection (if applicable)

### FEES (To be completed by Select Board Office)

Rental Fee x \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ hr. = \$ 150.00 (min \$150)

Plus, refundable security deposit in the amount of the rental fee = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

X Custodian x 2 hrs. at \$ 50.00 hr = \$ 100.00

\_\_\_\_ Police x \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ hr = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FEES** = \$ 250.00

I have received \$ 250.00 in fees and security deposit for the use of the Town Hall Auditorium on behalf of  
Town of Fairhaven from Kelsey Janak (Girls Scouts of Eastern MA)  
Organ ization

Date: 8/4/25

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
For Select Board

(Security Deposit will be returned after inspection of the premises by the Select Board or its designee, less any charge for clean up or repair.)



**Town of Fairhaven  
Massachusetts  
Select Board**

40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Tel: (508) 979-4023  
Fax: (508) 979-4079  
selectboard@Fairhaven-MA.gov

**Release and Indemnification Agreement**

In consideration of the rental from the Town of Fairhaven ("Town") of the Town Hall and or Town Hall Auditorium, the undersigned hereby releases and forever discharges the Town and its officers, agents and employees from all suits, claims and demands of any nature whatsoever, including for negligence, which he or she or his or her heirs or assigns may ever have for any personal or bodily injury, death or property damage arising out of, related to or resulting from, in whole or in part, the use of the premises as described above.

The undersigned further agrees, for him or herself and his or her heirs and assigns, to defend and indemnify the Town and its officers, agents and employees against all such suits, claims and demands by any third party, including invitees and others, and to save them forever harmless therefrom.

If any damage to the Town Hall and or Town Hall Auditorium or any equipment or appurtenance therein, results from any act or neglect of the undersigned, its agents, guests, licensees or invitees, The undersigned shall be liable therefore and shall upon demand, reimburse the Town for all costs and expenses of such repairs and damages.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that he or she has read and understands this release and Indemnification, and that if he or she is signing on behalf of another person or entity, he or she is authorized to do so and that such other person or entity intends to be fully bound hereby.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Kelsey Janak

Date:

June 6, 2025

Before me:

  
Witness Signature



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## New submission from Volunteer Opportunities

1 message

Patrick Carr Patrick Carr <no-reply@igpr.net>

Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 10:58 AM

Reply-To: pj carr@a1crane.com

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>  
Reply-To: Garysplumbing@msn.com  
To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 1:07 PM

**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

**Nicholas Jones Nicholas Jones** <no-reply@jgpr.net>

Fri, Jul 25, 2025 at 11:51 AM

Reply-To: jonez781@gmail.com

To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

**Full Name**

Nicholas Jones

**Address**

**Email**

**Phone**

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

6 months

**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**

No

**Interests and Qualifications.**

My wife Shayna Jones is also interested in a position on the commission for a one year agreement

**Consent**

 I agree to the privacy policy.

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## New submission from Volunteer Opportunities

1 message

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**Nicholas Jones Nicholas Jones** <no-reply@jgpr.net>

Fri, Jul 25, 2025 at 11:51 AM

Reply-To: jonez781@gmail.com

To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

**Full Name**

Nicholas Jones

**Address**

**Email**

**Phone**

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

6 months

**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**

No

**Interests and Qualifications.**

My wife Shayna Jones is also interested in a position on the commission for a one year agreement

**Consent**

 I agree to the privacy policy.

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## New submission from Volunteer Opportunities

1 message

**Kristen Russell** Kristen Russell <no-reply@jgpr.net>  
 Reply-To: krussellnp@gmail.com  
 To: Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 10:22 AM

### Full Name

Kristen Russell

### Address

### Email

### Phone

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

4+ years in Fairhaven, with most of my life rooted on the South Coast.

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

I've served as an Associate Member of the ZBA for over a year — present, prepared, and engaged through challenging transitions. I'm applying now to step into a full voting seat. My goal is to bring consistency, clarity, and professionalism to a board that deserves stability. Short and sweet: I care, I show up, and I'm real. Honestly, I can't pinpoint why I'm so drawn to this role — just that I know it matters, and I'm here for it.

### 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

Yes. I've served as an Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for over a year, consistently attending meetings, participating in deliberations, and staying actively engaged.

### Interests and Qualifications.

I'm interested in good governance, plain and simple. The ZBA handles decisions that shape real lives, and I believe that process deserves thoughtfulness, consistency, and clarity. I'm not a developer or a lawyer — I'm a Nurse Practitioner, trained to listen, analyze, and act with integrity. That background brings a grounded, community-minded perspective that I believe the board benefits from.

I maintain a dynamic, hands-on mix in my clinical practice — rounding on patients in the hospital, sewing them up in the OR, and supporting South Coast families through Community Nurse's palliative care. I also run a small, locally based business focused on wellness and access. What I do is unconventional in a field that can be rigid, but it's grounded in care, built on trust, and making a real difference. These roles keep me close to what matters: people.

I'm building a life in Fairhaven that I'm proud of — not because it's flashy, but because it's real. I'm not here to play politics. I'm here to serve, thoughtfully and consistently.

### Consent

 I agree to the privacy policy.



On Jul 30, 2025, at 11:07 AM, Richard Trapilo <[rfttrapilo@yahoo.com](mailto:rfttrapilo@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I hope this message finds you well and that you're enjoying the beautiful weather.

At your convenience, I would like the opportunity to address the Selectboard on a matter of critical importance: the ongoing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) discharges from the City of New Bedford into our shared waters.

For your reference, I've attached a letter I recently submitted as written testimony in support of proposed legislation aimed at establishing a fund to address water quality issues in Bristol County. While this legislation is a step in the right direction, I believe it is imperative that the Town of Fairhaven maintains strong and consistent pressure on the City of New Bedford.

Unless we remain vigilant, I fear that New Bedford will continue—as it has for decades—to discharge hundreds of millions of gallons of untreated human waste and harmful chemicals into our waters. This concern was underscored by a recent comment from a senior New Bedford official during the joint New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor Plan meeting, who stated: *"The water is the best it's ever been."* Frankly, I found this remark to be deeply troubling and dismissive of the very real issues we face.

In my view, any serious harbor plan must begin with a plan to *clean the waters of Buzzards Bay*.

Thank you, as always, for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

**Rick Trapilo**  
**774-644-3420**



**Good afternoon,**

First, I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Honorable Senator Montigny, Representative Markey, and Representative Sylvia for their leadership and foresight in sponsoring this essential piece of legislation—**Bill N638** : to establish a Coastal Waters Financing Commission.

My name is Rick Trapilo, and I'm proud to speak today not only as a resident of Fairhaven, but also as a member of SRPEDD's Environmental Committee, a former member of the Fairhaven Planning Board, and a contributor to the ongoing New Bedford–Fairhaven Harbor Plan Committee.

Although I now call the South Coast home, my story begins in Dorchester's Saint Kevin's Parish, where I was raised in a three-family home with five siblings. For us, a hot summer day meant piling into the car and heading to Carson Beach in South Boston. It was the only beach we could afford—and we cherished those family moments, even though the water was often unsafe. As the old Boston song says, *"Love that dirty water,"* *We really didn't love that dirty water and* we didn't realize how sick that water was making us.

But thanks to bold Legislative action, federal investment, and the creation of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Boston Harbor underwent a transformation. What was once a polluted harbor became a national model for environmental recovery, a clean, vibrant waterfront supporting fishing, sailing, and swimming.

Now, it's time to bring that same vision and commitment to the South Coast.

In just the last two months, the historic City of New Bedford has discharged approximately **130 million gallons** of untreated sewage into our bay—pollution caused by an aging and overwhelmed Combined Sewer Overflow system. If trends continue, more than **750 million gallons** may be discharged by year's end. That's raw waste—generated by 110,000 residents and industries—flowing directly into the waters we all share, simply because the infrastructure cannot keep pace with even moderate rainfall.

At a regional meeting convened by Buzzards Bay Coalition President Mark Rasmussen on January 15th, it became heartbreakingly clear: **New Bedford cannot bear the estimated \$1.2 billion cost of fixing this crisis alone.** Nor should it. This is not a single-city issue—it's a regional challenge, and it demands a statewide response.

That is why **this bill is so vital.**

It creates a path toward long-term, sustainable funding. It opens the possibility for a regional water authority—akin to the Narragansett Bay Commission in Rhode

Island—which resolved a similar CSO issue in Providence by investing in holding tanks that prevent raw sewage from being discharged during storms.

We cannot afford to ignore this any longer.

Massachusetts has positioned New Bedford as a hub for clean energy, through our investments in offshore wind in Nantucket Sound. But how can we celebrate renewable energy on one hand while turning a blind eye to the ongoing pollution of Buzzards Bay on the other?

**This contradiction must end.**

Clean water is not a luxury. It is a basic human right.

Every child, every family, every resident along the South Coast deserves the chance to walk our beaches, swim in our waters, harvest shellfish, and fish—**without fear** of sickness, pollution, or closed signs.

The passage of this bill is not just a matter of infrastructure. It is a declaration of our values—a **commitment to public health, to equity, and to environmental justice**. It is a legacy we can all be proud of, one that future generations will most certainly thank us for.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your unwavering commitment to the health and future of the South Coast. I wish you continued strength, and a joyful and safe Fourth of July weekend.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Trapilo

15 Leeward Way

Fairhaven, Ma.



**DISCLOSURE BY NON-ELECTED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST  
AND DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING AUTHORITY  
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 19**

	<b>MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE INFORMATION</b>
Name:	Douglas Brady
Title or Position:	Appointed as a member to the Atlas Tack group
Municipal Agency:	Town of Fairhaven – Atlas Tack Working Group
Agency Address:	Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719
Office Phone:	508-979-4023
Office E-mail:	<a href="mailto:gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov">gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov</a> <a href="mailto:cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov">cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov</a>
	My duties require me to participate in a particular matter, and I may not participate because of a financial interest that I am disclosing here. I request a determination from my appointing authority about how I should proceed.
	<b>PARTICULAR MATTER</b>
Particular matter  E.g., a judicial or other proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, decision, determination, or finding.	Please describe the particular matter.  I live at 97 Pleasant Street, (539 feet +- away from the Atlas Tack property) which is well beyond the 300-foot general standard set by the State of Massachusetts for abutters to an abutter. The Atlas Tack property is located at 81 Pleasant Street. The Atlas Tack property is being reviewed by the Atlas Tack Working group to create a report of the property's history, present and possible future to present to the Select Board. The Select Board has all final decisions of the property and all financial decisions regarding the property. I do not have a sole final financial decision which would bind the property, that authority rests in the Select Board's purview.
Your required participation in the particular matter:  E.g., approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, rendering advice, investigation, other.	Please describe the task you are required to perform with respect to the particular matter.  As a member of the Atlas Tack working group, I will compile information, facts and any additional responsibilities given by the Select Board or Town Administrator along with four (4) other group members in relations to the past, present and possible future of Atlas Tack property with a report to be presented to the Select Board. We are not responsible for any financial decisions or outcome of the property. The Select Board is the responsible party for all final matters including financial decisions relating to the Atlas Tack property.
	<b>FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE PARTICULAR MATTER</b>
Write an X by all that apply.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a financial interest in the matter.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My immediate family member has a financial interest in the matter.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My business partner has a financial interest in the matter.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee of a business organization, and the business organization has a financial interest in the matter.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am negotiating or have made an arrangement concerning future employment with a person or organization, and the person or organization has a financial interest in the matter.</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red; font-size: 2em;">N/A</p>

Financial interest in the matter	<p>Please explain the financial interest and include a dollar amount if you know it.</p> <p>I reside at 97 Pleasant Street which is 539 + - feet away from the Atlas Tack property which is located at 81 Pleasant Street. I am located over 300 feet away from the Atlas Tack property and not an abutter to an abutter. I reside six (six) houses away from the property. I do not have a personal nor a financial interest in the Atlas Tack Corporation, property or any family members associated with the Atlas Tack Corporation. I am not solely responsible for financial decisions of the Atlas Tack property. Only the Select Board has control over all matters, including financial decisions, on the Atlas Tack property. My location will not affect my discussions, judgement or potential decisions nor is there any perceived monetary gain based on how I participate in this particular matter.</p>
Employee signature:	<i>Joseph B. B. 6/11/25</i>
Date:	<i>June 11, 2025</i>

#### DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING OFFICIAL

	<b>APPOINTING AUTHORITY INFORMATION</b>
Name of Appointing Authority:	Charles Murphy – Chair -Fairhaven Select Board
Title or Position:	Fairhaven Select Board
Agency/Department:	Town of Fairhaven
Agency Address:	Town Hall 40 Center Street Fairhaven, MA 02719
Office Phone:	508-979-4023
Office E-mail	<a href="mailto:cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov">cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov</a>
	<b>DETERMINATION</b>
Determination by appointing authority:	As appointing official, as required by G.L. c. 268A, § 19, I have reviewed the particular matter and the financial interest identified above by a municipal employee. I have determined that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from the employee.
Appointing Authority signature:	
Date:	
Comment:	

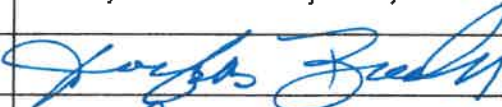

Attach additional pages if necessary.

The appointing authority shall keep this Disclosure and Determination as a public record.

**DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST  
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 23(b)(3)**

	<b>PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION</b>
Name of public employee:	Douglas Brady
Title or Position:	Member of the Atlas Tack Working Group
Agency/Department:	Town of Fairhaven – Atlas Tack Working Group
Agency address:	Town of Fairhaven, Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719
Office Phone:	508-979-4023
Office E-mail:	<a href="mailto:gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov">gsamia@fairhaven-ma.gov</a> <a href="mailto:cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov">cmurphy@fairhaven-ma.gov</a>
	<p>In my capacity as a state, county or municipal employee, I am expected to take certain actions in the performance of my official duties. Under the circumstances, a reasonable person could conclude that a person or organization could unduly enjoy my favor or improperly influence me when I perform my official duties, or that I am likely to act or fail to act as a result of kinship, rank, position or undue influence of a party or person.</p> <p>I am filing this disclosure to disclose the facts about this relationship or affiliation and to dispel the appearance of a conflict of interest.</p>
	<b>APPEARANCE OF FAVORITISM OR INFLUENCE</b>
Describe the issue that is coming before you for action or decision.	As a member of the Atlas Tack working group, I, along with fellow group members will compile information, facts and any additional responsibilities given by the Select Board or Town Administrator in relations to the past, present and possible future of Atlas Tack property with a report to be presented to the Select Board. We are not responsible for any financial decisions or outcome of the property. The Select Board is the responsible party and has all final decisions of the property and all financial decisions regarding the property. I do not have a sole final financial decision which would bind the property, that authority rests in the Select Board's purview
What responsibility do you have for taking action or making a decision?	I share responsibilities with a total of five (5) members of the working group. We are tasked by the Select Board to gather information of the past, present, and possible future of the Atlas Tack property located in Fairhaven, MA and create a report for the Select Board. We do not make <u>any final decisions</u> regarding the Atlas Tack property nor do we have any authority to write, verbalize, commit nor bind the Town of Fairhaven to the Atlas Tack property. All responsibilities and authority for final decisions rests solely with the Select Board of Fairhaven, MA
Explain your relationship or affiliation to the person or organization.	I live at 97 Pleasant Street and the property is located at 81 Pleasant Street. I am the 6 <sup>th</sup> house away from the Atlas Tack property. I live over 539 feet +/- from the Atlas Tack property which is well beyond the 300-foot general standard set by the State of Massachusetts for abutters to an abutter. The property is currently abandoned and has been shuttered down for many years.



How do your official actions or decision matter to the person or organization?	As part of the working group, we are to gather past, present and possible future information regarding the Atlas Tack property and present a report for the Select Board. The working group is not responsible for any decision that will affect the Atlas Tack property, the Select Board is the sole responsible party.
<b>Optional:</b> Additional facts – e.g., why there is a low risk of undue favoritism or improper influence.	<p>The working group is not responsible for taking any direct / indirect actions against the Atlas Tack property. The responsibility resides with the Fairhaven Select Board.</p> <p>I reside at 97 Pleasant Street which is near Atlas Tack property which is located at 81 Pleasant Street. I live over 539 feet +- from the Atlas Tack property which is well beyond the 300-foot general standard set by the State of Massachusetts for abutters to an abutter. I do not have a personal nor a financial interest in the Atlas Tack Corporation, property or any family members associated with the Atlas Tack Corporation. My location will not affect my discussions, judgement or potential decisions nor is there any perceived monetary gain based on how I participate in this particular matter.</p>
If you cannot confirm this statement, you should recuse yourself.	<p><b>WRITE AN X TO CONFIRM THE STATEMENT BELOW.</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taking into account the facts that I have disclosed above, I feel that I can perform my official duties objectively and fairly.</p>
Employee signature:	
Date:	

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Not elected to your public position – file with your appointing authority.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.

Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.

Elected regional school committee member – file with the clerk or secretary of the committee.



# FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

F 1

## Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025

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

Mr. Murphy opened the Select Board meeting at 6:32pm

### **JOINT WITH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA)**

**ZBA Members present:** Ruy daSilva, Kenneth Kendall, Bob Hannan, Daryl Manchester, Peg Cook and **Present via zoom:** Patrick Carr and Kristen Russell. **Not Present:** Derek Furtado

Mr. daSilva opened the ZBA meeting at 6:35pm, the ZBA will adjourn immediately following discussion.

### **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Promotion Process**

Discussion ensued regarding the process and procedure on the promotion of an associate member to a full member. Each member was given an opportunity to speak to the process, concerns and suggestions for moving forward.

Mr. Kendall spoke about being on the ZBA for eighteen years, past reappointments being automatic and changes where he had to come before the Select Board.

Mr. Hannan referred to his email to the Board from June 9, 2025 regarding suggestions for a policy change (*Attachment A*), ZBA members having a right of first refusal for a full member vacancy and clear, objective criteria.

Mr. Manchester addressed the Board about the process, Select Board purview, past process of moving an associate member up to full member, notification to members, experience with statutory requirements and past chairs that were tenured.

Ms. Cook said to clarify the process and that experience can come from serving on other boards.

Ms. Russell addressed the Board via zoom, she said she agreed with what had been said and that a fresh look from members willing to step up should have the opportunity and to add diversity to boards as well.

Mr. Carr addressed the Board via zoom and said the reason this matter was raised was to allow members to express their concerns about advancement and not to look retroactively. He said a policy is needed with guidelines to follow and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Mr. daSilva addressed the Board and said as all members have said, a process is needed and referred to past members being dropped down or attempted to be dropped down.

Mr. Murphy thanked the volunteers for their time and service. He said the process was followed and that the office will reach out to the Chair regarding vacancies.

The Board discussed aspects of the process including: resignation notifications to the Chair, liaison and Department Head, past reappointment process for a member in good standing, asking an applicant questions prior to appointment, statutory boards and their members' expectation and duty to follow regulations and uphold citizens' rights, deference given to an Associate Member when a Full Member vacancy exists but not as a de facto rule, whether an associate moves up automatically or is identified as next in line,

**Select Board Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned that the Select Board office will email the Chair of boards, committees or commissions when a resignation is sent to the Select Board or Town Administrator. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joan Fye of New Bedford and a volunteer at the Animal Shelter, said donations are being kept in the Police Department and not for animals, and questioned why the Town would close down the only no-kill shelter.

Beth Luey of Middle Street addressed the Board, she said the recent unpleasantness is not just one individual but symptomatic of the Town's larger problem with bullying and incivility on social media and on several elected and appointed boards. She hopes when the next members are appointed to the Historical Commission that the Board chooses people who will work collegially, respectfully and civilly.

Matthew McDonald of New Bedford and Vice President of the Fairhaven Village Militia addressed the Board about a militia member who started controversies. He submitted a letter to a board member and the previous Chair of the Historical Commission apologizing for that member's behavior on July 4<sup>th</sup> and would like to set the record straight and is open to speak further on the matter and work with the Historical Commission to promote local history.

Paul Sullivan of Washington Street addressed the Board about speeding on Washington Street in front of his house and dead animals left in the road; he has a turkey crossing sign posted. He said no one gets stopped there and he thinks better signs are needed.

Ray Saraiva of Washington Street addressed the Board. He said he wrote a letter to Police Chief Silva back in 1999 and has a petition about the speeding (*Attachment B*). He also commented on the number of dead animals and speeding on Washington Street. He added that he helps elderly people cross because there are no crosswalks at McGann Terrace.

Erin Carr of Mattapoisett and owns a business on Middle Street in Fairhaven addressed the Board about the Board's proposal for a statement on expectations for behavior by Town volunteers and residents that participate in public meetings and on social media. She said it was not reasonable or realistic to suggest the Board oversee and regulate resident's speech on social media. The Board can demonstrate and encourage the behavior they would like to see and questioned addressing the behavior of residents without addressing the Fairhaven Neighborhood News (FNN) and financially supporting them by choosing them for legal notices. Ms. Carr handed the Board a packet containing excerpts from the FNN that she said show examples of the editor's articles and opinions that are blatantly biased and asked the Board to consider finding a more fair and equitable news source (*Attachment C*).

## **APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS**

### **Town Meeting Survey Results: Anne Carreiro**

Ms. Carreiro reviewed a presentation showing budget projections and survey results from Town Meeting Members at the Annual Town Meeting in May, 2025. (*Attachment D*). The slides show potential deficits and what the potential impact could be. Police, Fire, Public Works and the School Department were asked to review and list losses to their department.

The survey was provided to the representative Town Meeting members asking what residents want to do: hold meetings, form a committee, support a full override, support budget cuts, support a combination and/or explore regionalization.

Discussion ensued about an override, short-term and long-term solutions, additional revenue and growth needs, exploring regionalization and constraints of Proposition 2 1/2. Ms. Carreiro said departments have been reviewing different and new ways to generate revenue sources. Mr. Samia added that the majority of cities and towns in the state are facing the same issue and many towns that attempted overrides this year failed. Many factors can impact the deficit, for example, losing Acushnet from the School District, no trash fee or losing wind revenue. No override means cuts and loss of services.

The next steps are education, public meetings with department heads. The Board supports a version of the presentation if it can be included with the next tax or water bill from the Collector. Also, notifying Representative Sylvia and State Senator Montigny of the concerns and enlist the legislative arm of the Massachusetts Municipal Association to lobby the state for increased local aid. The public is asked to share ideas with the Board.

**Appointment Request: Historical Commission**

This item was tabled to the August 11, 2025 meeting.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to table this item, then rescinded his motion.

**Motion:** Mr. Romano motioned to table this item. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Saunders abstained.

**Appointment Request: Commission on Disability**

Pamela Roy addressed the Board about her application and interest.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Pamela Roy to the Commission on Disability for a term through May, 2027. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**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 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. 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 from 8:09pm to 8:52pm*

**ACTION/DISCUSSION**

**Contract: Keith Hickey, Town Administrator**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the employment agreement between the Town of Fairhaven and Keith Hickey at a starting salary of one hundred eighty-nine thousand, three hundred and sixty-nine dollars (\$189,369) per year, effective July 28, 2025, subject to final approval by Labor Counsel. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Hickey addressed the Board, thanked them and said he is looking forward to being a part of the team.

**Collective Bargaining Agreement: Fairhaven Firefighters Association, Local 1555, IAFF/PFFM**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between The Town of Fairhaven and the Fairhaven Firefighters Association, Local 1555, IAFF/PFFM for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Annual Appointment of Election Workers**

The Town Clerk submitted the list of election workers. Election workers do not have to be residents and can be Democrat, Republican or Unenrolled, if interested, see the Town Clerk.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the appointment of election workers as presented in accordance with MGL c 54 section 12 for a term from August 16, 2025 through August 15, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Select Board Statement: Upholding Behavioral Standards**

Mr. Romano read the draft statement. Discussion ensued about a change to the second paragraph, releasing this to all boards, committees and commissions, social media and website.

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to adopt and release the document as amended. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).



## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Samia reported:

- Nate Bekemeier and Michael Silva resigned from the Historical Commission and Geoffrey Sullivan resigned from the ZBA. Mr. Samia thanked them for their time and work on the respective boards. The openings created have been updated online, anyone interested in these or other opportunities can apply through the Town website. A deadline to apply was set for these appointments of August 6, 2025. Mr. Romano asked if Mr. Samia could reach out to the individuals to advise them of the statement the Board is releasing.
- Mr. Murphy clarified that the Animal Shelter is not closing. Mr. Samia referred to the presentation from Ms. Carreiro which contains projections and potential losses to services and staffing.
- Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Samia to contact Chief Dorgan to review the Animal Shelter concern and the speeding concerns.  
Mr. Silvia added that the police website has a traffic concern/complaint form that can be submitted.

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

Mr. Silvia reported:

- The Atlas Tack Working Group has had four meetings and has invited the Environmental Protection Agency to the next meeting.

Mr. Romano reported:

- SMMPO orientation will be in August
- SRPEDD met, sub-committees reported and set expectations

Mr. Murphy reported:

- Mr. Murphy attended a social with the Counsel General of Japan in Boston, Representative Sylvia and Representative Tony Cabral from New Bedford also attended
- The Counsel General of Japan toured Fairhaven earlier today

Ms. Mello reported:

- The Library met, the staging will be down by the end of August. They adopted a 2025-2030 strategic plan
- Buzzards Bay Water Quality Working Group has not met

Mr. Saunders reported:

- He worked with Mr. Murphy on the Town Administrator contract negotiations.
- He will bring the concern about speeding and ebikes on the bike path back to the Livable Streets Committee; they would like to partner with the Police on a change of culture

Mr. Silvia:

- Last Saturday was the Dog Days of Summer Harborfest, well attended and the next event is August 23, 2025 called Splash of Art.

## **MINUTES**

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Open Session minutes of July 10, 2025 and July 14, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Select Board Executive Session minutes of July 10, 2025 and July 14, 2025. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Contact forms were received into the record from: Michael Kelly, Beth Lucy, 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 (*Attachment E*)

**Motion:** Mr. Saunders motioned to enter the Select Board correspondence as listed into the record. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

#### **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

#### **Quote:**

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" Helen Keller."*

***Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm***

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Policy Change Suggestion email: Bob Hannan, June 9, 2025
- B. Petition regarding speeding on Washington Street; letter to Chief Ted Silva, June 21, 1999
- C. Handout from Erin Carr
- D. Town Meeting Survey Results
- E. 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

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

Accepted on \_\_\_\_\_

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## Public Comment- Ref: 7/28/2025 meeting

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 29, 2025 at 4:49 AM

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

Dear Town Administrator & Select board,

Preventing Despicable behavior is a 2 sided St.

I understand that people on the boards are volunteers.

Unfortunately, there has been over the past few years, a display of conflict of interest with volunteers on boards, appearing to use their volunteer positions for their own interest.

There's also been question about volunteers misappropriating/even abusing tax payer dollars- lack of transparency and community outreach at the neighborhood level, when spending taxpayer dollars.

Good behavior goes far beyond being kind and sweet when speaking.

It's important that you remember that as volunteers you need to gain the trust of the public, when you are handling their money and when making important decisions for this town. As this is also a major part of behavior carried out behind the scene of the public eye.

When you add the fact that there has been question and conflict of interest with volunteers on boards, to the fact that now our board volunteers want to monitor the public's behavior, and decide what can be said, and how it can be said, that is appearing as censorship. And censorship is against the law in this country.

Next meeting, you may want to clarify the fact that you have no intention on censoring the public voice, that you serve.

It would be unlawful behavior of our volunteers on the select board or any board, to not be able to discern censorship, from not tolerating violent behavior. There is a distinct line.

And what concerns me is that Mr Romano and Miss Mello may think that they can censor the public when they are speaking with boldness and passion for the truth to be known. And or when holding our volunteers accountable.

As we all know, it has been reported in other towns where corruption and stealing funds, has made the news.

At the current time, Mr. Romano or Miss Mello, have not gained my trust -And I did not vote for them. They have displayed behaviors and have said things and done things that I find disturbing. Nor do I feel that either one of them are qualified to monitor someone's behavior. I'm sad to have to say this, but it's the truth.

I think if people are violent Or displaying despicable lewd and unlawful behavior, then you should call the police. But don't think that it's OK to censor the public when they're speaking the truth without the sugar. Honesty is more sweet to me, then sweet talk.

And don't forget residents have the God given right to be righteously upset over some of the things that have happened in our town hall over the last few years. Not to mention why we are having a potential deficit of such magnitude. That alone causes an unrest in this town. Many of the families here are already stressed out financially.

Yours truly & honestly,

Michelle Costen

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## <FYI> Route 6 Working Group

1 message

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**Will Gardner** <southcoastplacesforpeople@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 3, 2025 at 3:40 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Dear Members of the Select Board,

I'm writing to inform you that a resident-led Route 6 Working Group, organized by SouthCoast Places for People, will be launching next week. The group brings together residents from both Fairhaven and New Bedford who are committed to advancing a safer, more vibrant Route 6 corridor.

We are working in coordination with members of the SRPEDD team and aligning our early steps with the recently released Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan. This effort is grounded in the urgent need for safety improvements—particularly in light of recent fatalities—as well as a shared belief that the current design of Route 6 no longer meets the needs or values of the communities it serves.

The kickoff gathering is open to the public, but is intentionally focused on helping residents connect with one another and begin identifying shared values and priorities. This early stage is designed to give the community space to shape its own direction before engaging more formally with town bodies.

We look forward to connecting with the Select Board in the weeks and months ahead. Should Route 6 come under discussion in future public planning or policy conversations, we hope the residents involved in this working group can contribute to that process.

For additional background, here's a recent op-ed I co-authored with Miles Grant in *The New Bedford Light*:  
<https://newbedfordlight.org/redesigning-a-safer-route-6-for-todays-south-coast/>

Thank you for your time and ongoing service,

Will Gardner  
SouthCoast Places for People



COMMUNITY VOICES

## Redesigning a safer Route 6 for today's South Coast

As we face a series of horrific crashes, it's time for a conversation about whether this highway built in the 1950s is serving the needs of our community today.



By **Will Gardner** and **Miles Grant**

July 14, 2025

**R**oute 6 is such a regular part of our lives, with many of us driving it every day. It's hard to come right out and say that it's unsafe. But as we face a series of horrific crashes, it's time for a conversation about whether this

highway built in the 1950s is serving the needs of our community today.

Over the Independence Day holiday weekend, there were at least three serious crashes on Route 6 across New Bedford Harbor and in Fairhaven:

- Thursday, July 3: A New Bedford man was killed in a crash on the bridge.
- Friday, July 4: A teenage girl was hit and seriously injured by a driver next to the bridge on Pope's Island.
- Saturday, July 5: Marin Stackpole, a 17-year-old Fairhaven girl, was killed on Route 6 in a crash at Jeannette Street.

This follows February's crash that killed a 28-year-old Fairhaven driver on the bridge. Especially as we look to make a generational investment in replacing the Fairhaven-New Bedford Bridge, we need to take a good hard look at the design of the current span and the state highway that follows it.

On talk radio and Facebook, blame is often solely placed on individual choices and bad driving. We can all agree more should be done to curb reckless and distracted driving, as well as driving under the influence. While enforcement plays an important role, police resources are already stretched thin — and it's simply not feasible to have officers stationed at every dangerous intersection or stretch of road where speeding occurs.

But if individual negligence was primarily to blame, why aren't crashes spread equally across our roadways? We all know the unsafe roads and intersections in our communities. They're not dangerous because the worst drivers gather there — it's because our roads have increasingly been built for vehicle speed, and without consideration for the consequences of poorly-designed intersections.

Take a look at a crash map and Route 6 traces itself like a scar across the South Coast. Route 6 is home to 23 of 100 of our area's most dangerous intersections, according to the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD).

Route 6 was built in the 1920s as a highway connecting Providence to Provincetown. Despite I-195 being added as a parallel highway in the 1950s, Route 6's design today remains largely the same as it was when it served as a high-speed cut through.

Especially with the national shift away from big box stores and shopping plazas, Route 6's economic engine is visibly sputtering. Dollar stores have replaced department stores, and drive-thrus have replaced destination restaurants. Even though many of our region's schools are located on or right off Route 6, sidewalks are sporadic and bike infrastructure is nonexistent.

Route 6 is increasingly defined by what you can't do — or do safely.

Is our community better served by continuing to treat all of Route 6 as a highway, or should at least parts of it evolve to become community streets that prioritize access and safety over speed? We know there's significant public interest in the latter. SRPEDD's Route 6 Corridor Study showed strong support for the 3-lane configuration (2 travel lanes with a two-way left-turn lane) that Mattapoisett uses through its center.

Fairhaven has taken a step forward, applying a 40R zoning overlay across a big section of what are now largely empty shopping plaza parking lots, allowing them to be redeveloped as mixed-use, with both commercial space and urgently needed housing. There's talk of reduced car dependence and walkability, but take a look at cars zipping by, infrequent bus service, and limited to nonexistent infrastructure for walking and biking, and Route 6 continues to send the message that we expect folks to drive if they have the means and ability.

Meanwhile, downtown New Bedford, with its dense walkability, is where our region's cultural vibrancy and business investment are now focused. With a series of new apartment buildings springing up and South Coast Rail finally open, downtown's future looks bright.

But the Fairhaven-New Bedford Bridge increasingly divides, rather than connects, the two communities. Traffic counts show vehicle traffic over the bridge plummeted by more than half from 1979 to 2014. Despite the opening of South Coast Rail, no buses run over the bridge, and walking and biking must be done on narrow sidewalks. The teenage girl injured on July 5 was hit on an increasingly busy crossing between a marina and playground and shopping plazas — but Route 6 has no marked crossings anywhere on its nearly one-mile span across the harbor.

It's time to reimagine the role we want this road to serve. We can no longer accept the unsafe status quo. The upcoming replacement of the Fairhaven-New Bedford Bridge is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to start down a new path, designing a place for people, one that safely connects our communities and gives people choices on how to get around.

Southcoast Places for People is forming a working group to look at Route 6. We believe a smarter, safer road design can get everyone where they're going safely, on time, and by whatever mode they choose to use. We'll keep the memories of those taken from us in these crashes close to our hearts, as we talk to our neighbors about how best to protect the next generation of South Coast kids.

*Will Gardner is founder of Southcoast Places for People. Miles Grant is a member of SCPFP and a member of the Fairhaven Planning Board.*



## **Monday, August 11, 2025**

### **Executive Session**

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 (Fairhaven School Committee v. Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals)

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. (Fire Chief)

***AND NOT TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION***