



# Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719

LAGOA FRIENDSHIP PACT COMMITTEE MINUTES

LOCATION: Town Hall & Remotely via Zoom

DATE AND TIME: Monday, April 7, 2025, at 6:30 PM

## Attendance

- **Alyssa Botelho** – Liaison, Community Development Coordinator, of Portuguese heritage
- **Jenny Fialho** – TFed Credit Union employee, 1st-generation Portuguese
- **Despina Longinidis** – Grew up in Europe; excited to bring cultures together
- **Stephanie Pickup** – School Committee member, some Portuguese ancestry
- **Charlie Murphy** – Select Board representative, attended Lagoa Pact signing in Portugal, Treasurer of Our Lady of Angels Club, Portuguese heritage

## Correspondence

- Charlie Murphy shared that **Christina Pinto**, a committee member, could not attend but is excited about connecting educational systems. Charlie will connect her with Stephanie Pickup.

## Reaffirming Our Mission & Vision for the Future

- Stephanie Pickup proposed creating a Student Ambassador Program at Fairhaven High School to engage the next generation.
- Charlie Murphy emphasized that Portuguese heritage is not a requirement for membership. He will reach out to a new business owner in Fairhaven of Azorean descent and members of the Our Lady of Angels Club for potential recruitment.
- Charlie and Alyssa reflected positively on the 2022 celebration of Lagoa's 500th anniversary at Fairhaven Town Hall, attended by Lagoa officials including the Mayor.
- Charlie noted the Lagoa banner is still available and expressed interest in the Committee having a presence at the Our Lady of Angels Feast in September.
- Derek Frates (Fairhaven TV Director) mentioned the availability of Lagoa tourism videos, translated into English by MJ Carvalho. He will share them with the board for online promotion.
- Jenny Fialho added that many original members of the Our Lady of Angels Club were from Lagoa.
- Alyssa Botelho suggested a potential collaboration with COA Director Martha Reed and the Rec Center for multigenerational activities involving Fairhaven High School students.



- Stephanie supported the idea of a multigenerational culinary program, where family recipes could be shared and preserved.
    - Charlie noted that Martha is dynamic and likely open to new ideas, and Alyssa will follow up.
  - Derek and Alyssa discussed the possibility of having a Lagoa table at Fairhaven tourism events, such as the upcoming Huttleston HarborFest at Grimshaw Park.
  - Stephanie suggested creating Facebook and Instagram accounts to promote the Committee's work. Alyssa will move forward with setting these up.
  - Jenny agreed that establishing social media accounts and participating in community events is valuable for outreach and visibility.
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### Staff Liaison Updates

- New Bedford Film Festival will include a “Viva Portugal” screening block at the Steeple Playhouse on Sunday, April 13th at 3 PM.
  - Stephanie noted that “The Last Azorean Whalemen” will screen at the Whaling Museum on Thursday, April 17th.
  - Alyssa shared that the new Fairhaven tourism website has launched: [www.discoverfairhaven.org](http://www.discoverfairhaven.org), which includes an events page. Any Lagoa-related events will be listed there.
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### New Business

- None at this time.
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### Next Meeting

- Monday, May 19th at 6:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Botelho  
Community Development Coordinator