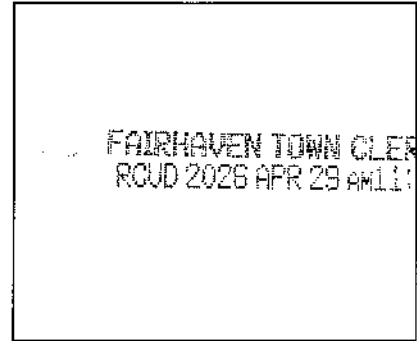


**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
April 13, 2026**



**Present**

Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner  
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner  
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager  
Joanne St. Amand  
Raymond St. Amand  
Bernadette Barreira, Recreation Director  
Kelly Camara, Conservation Agent  
Brandon Estrella, Conservation Commission  
Doug Brady

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. April 13, 2026**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of April 13, 2026. Mr. Lopes seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo and Ms. Smith in favor.

**IV. Appointments**

**A. Joanne St. Amand, Livesey Park Pickleball Courts**

Ms. St. Amand – I would like to speak with you regarding the Pickleball Courts at Livesey Park. I sent over a letter of what I was looking to discuss and I also sent some pictures as well. Last year you had to have a code to get into the app to see the schedule which was not a problem but as of this year you have to be a member of the FPA to get the code.

Mr. St. Amand - The existing sign that is posted at Livesey Park does not accurately reflect how the courts are being operated. They are not being run on first come first serve basis and there is not always a whiteboard available as indicated on the sign. I feel that they are forcing residents to sign up to be a member in order to use the app.

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Ms. Rotondo – There is a QR code on the sign, does that go to the app to see the schedule?

Ms. St. Amand – No, the QR code goes to the Fairhaven Recreation Department for the purpose of applying for permits for tournaments or fundraising events, not for court scheduling.

Ms. St. Amand reviewed rules from the Town of Barnstable, noting that their policies would serve as a good model for our courts, as they better reflect how public courts should be operated.

Ms. Barreira- I was made aware of this issue and I have already addressed one concern by designating each court as A through D. Also, moving forward approved permits will allow reservations for three of the four courts with one court being left open for public use. I have already sent a letter to the FPA advising them that previously approved permits are now limited to three courts. I am also willing to have a conversation with the leadership of the FPA to clarify that outside of permitted times the courts must remain available on a first come first serve basis and they cannot monopolize the courts. Additionally, if signage indicates that a whiteboard should be available, then a whiteboard must be present and users should be rotating and playing accordingly.

Mr. Wotton – They are removing the white board?

Ms. St. Amand – Yes, they put it out when they are there and remove it when there are done.

Mr. Wotton – Both the Recreation Center and the BPW will send them an email and if they do not want to abide by the rules than we will revoke their access to use the courts. If we have to purchase a white board to put up so there is always one available we will do so.

Ms. Smith - There was an issue with being able to access the FPA app

Ms. St. Amand – You have to pay the membership fee in order to get the code to be able to view the schedule.

Mr. Wotton – I think that it maybe easier to invite them to a future meeting to discuss it with them. This is the first time that we have been hearing about this and we will address it with them.

**B. Monica Ferracioli, Sorbae Frozen Treats, West Island Town Beach & Fort Phoenix**

Mr. Furtado – We are going to skip over this as Monica reached out and she has asked to postponed until further notice.

**V. Item for Action**

**A. Earth Day Event at Cushman Park on April 18, 2026**

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Mr. Estrella – The Conservation Commission is requesting to use the bandstand at Cushman Park on Saturday, April 18, 2026 to celebrate Earth Day. We are looking to set up some table with lessons, informational packets and also a touch tank.

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the Conservation Commission Earth Day Event at Cushman Park on Saturday, April 18, 2026 from 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo and Ms. Smith in favor.

**B. Greenhouse at Park**

Mr. Estrella read a proposal to the Board regarding a future Fairhaven Town Greenhouse. This project is being spearheaded by the Conservation Agent with support from the Fairhaven Green Space Committee. We come before you tonight looking for permission and guidance in finding a new permanent home for the future site of Fairhaven Town Greenhouse. We have procured a greenhouse made by Griffin Greenhouses, while its secondhand, it still holds its full integrity and with a little work and effort will benefit us for years to come. We have and will continue to make this a grant funded project. We hope in time to create a sustainable farm share and food bank for our community.

Ms. Smith asked Mr. Wotton to describe the layout.

Mr. Wotton – It would be a 30' x 60' greenhouse.

Ms. Smith – Where would it be going?

Mr. Estrella – That is one of the reasons we are here tonight. We have a few proposals and ideas but we are up for any ideas that you all may have as well.

Mr. Wotton - If you read the email chain between Mr. Crabb and Ms. Camera they mentioned Macomber Park and Anthony Field. I personally feel that Anthony Field would be an ideal location. There are basketball courts there and I know that the kids that live in the area still use the courts other than that this park is underutilized.

Ms. Smith – I have a few questions around maintenance. What would your maintenance plan be? How would you pay for it? What would you do for security? What would be the ongoing support? I know that this is a substantial undertaking when groups put something like this together. There is attention paid to it for a year or so and then it falls apart and ultimately the Board of Public Works winds up carting it away. I am not implying that this would happen here but I think that there needs to be a solid plan connected with this.

Mr. Estrella –We can provide a maintenance plan.

Ms. Smith – I think that we need to see the maintenance plan to see that it will be funded.

Mr. Estrella - Right now this is just a fact-finding mission, more than anything else.

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Ms. Smith – Have you reached out to the Sustainability Committee?

Mr. Estrella – Yes, they are on board with this.

Mr. Lopes – I think this is a good idea and that it's just a matter of finding a good place for this and I also agree with Ms. Smith that we definitely need a preventive and routine maintenance plan.

Mr. Estrella – We can provide you with that if we move forward. Again, this is just the beginning of this we are more just looking for a location right now.

Mr. Wotton – It seems that the Board is in favor of Anthony Field on North Street as a location.

Mr. Estrella – We will get all the information that the Board requested and request to be on a future agenda.

**C.      Trash Fee**

Mr. Furtado – At the last meeting we discussed what I would describe as good intentioned but ill-timed agenda item.

Mr. Furtado reviewed the Town Administrators Budget cuts with the Board.

Mr. Furtado – The warrant for Town Meeting is closed and when this was on our last agenda it was absolutely not to take the voting away from the electorate. It was if Town Meeting decides to go to the ballot with the override and the override failed would the Board be willing to consider this months later? If the Board would move forward if at all you would have to vote to agree to raise the trash fee by a certain amount of money and then you would have to go to Town Meeting and ask Town Meeting members if that would be willing to amend the FY27 budget accordingly.

Mr. Hobson – So you're asking us to raise the trash fees?

Mr. Furtado – After last week's meeting, Mr. Wotton and I had a meeting with the TA and Town Accountant and that's why we put this on the agenda again. I am not recommending one way or another but if the Board decided they wanted to raise the trash fee it would have to be approved at Town Meeting.

Mr. Hobson – The Town is asking us to do something and the BPW keeps losing thing.

Mr. Furtado – If there is no override the BPWs budgets would be reduce just shy of \$500,000.00. Even if the override passes this year there will be another override next year as well. This override is just to bridge the gap until next year.

Mr. Wotton reviewed the proposed override warrant article. I think that we should give the Town the option of raising the trash fee the additional amount at Town Meeting.

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Ms. Smith – The way I feel about this is if we are going to raise the trash fee I do not think it should be related to an override. I think that the override should stand on its own. I would personally not be comfortable going up and making a motion to fund some of these things and not the others. If we are raising the trash fee than we should make sure the fee is going to the trash costs. I know that there are residents in town who benefits from these services and do not pay trash fees. Also, I am not aware of the Board of Health raising the fees for commercial dumpsters which is not fair to the residents.

Mr. Lopes – When this came up a couple years ago we went through the whole evaluation of what the trash fee would be for, how much to set the rate, and we knew that it was not going to pay the whole contract. Also, I think that I made a comment that \$50 could break a budget, because its not only \$50 for the trash fee, its \$50 for insurance, electric, gas, water, etc. I feel that if there is anything that we owe the residents it is transparency in what exactly we would be doing with this and give them a choice.

Mr. Wotton motioned to leave the trash fee \$100 per year. Ms. Smith seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo and Ms. Smith in favor.

**D. Filming Request at West Island Town Beach, May 18 & 19, 2026**

Ms. Byers – We are looking to film at West Island Town. At this time the dates are up in the air. We are starting to film on May 12<sup>th</sup> and we are not sure when we would be ready to film at West Island. It would be somewhere between May 12 – 19.

Mr. Wotton – That is not a problem, if you could just let us know the dates prior to filming.

Ms. Rotondo Motioned to approve the filming request at West Island Town Beach pending the fee be paid. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo and Ms. Smith in favor.

**E. Driveway Permit Revisions**

Mr. Crabb – Currently the driveway permits are only valid for 30 days and I am just looking to revise it to valid thru the calendar year in which they are issued and must abide by the winter moratorium.

Mr. Hobson motioned to revise the driveway permits as presented. Ms. Smith seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo and Ms. Smith in favor.

**F. Tata & Howard, Supply Capacity Evaluation, Payment #26 \$5,011.17**

Ms. Lopes motioned to approve Tata & Howard Supply Capacity Evaluation Payment #26 in the amount of \$5,011.17. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo and Ms. Smith in favor.

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**G. Tata & Howard, Risk & Resilience Assessment Round 2, Payment #5 \$3,840.42**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tata & Howard Risk and Resilience Assessment Round 2 Payment #5 in the amount of \$3,840.42. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo and Ms. Smith in favor.

**H. FTI Consulting, WPCF Upgrades, Payment #3 \$19,995.84**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve FTI Consulting WPCF Upgrades Payment #3 in the amount of \$19,995.84. Ms. Smith seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo and Ms. Smith in favor.

**VI. Tabled Matters**

**A. 2026 West Island Town Beach**

Ms. Smith motioned to bring 2026 West Island Beach discussion back to the table. Mr. Wotton seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo and Ms. Smith in favor.

The Board members discussed the permit fees for 2026 West Island Town Beach Permits.

Ms. Smith – The Acushnet Resident Permits are contingent on Acushnet honoring their residential rate for the golf course for the season and not only for the time the beach is open.

Mr. Wotton – It should be for their entire season.

Ms. Smith – They did not honor it for their entire season last year, they only honored it for the length of time that the beach was open.

Mr. Wotton – I think that we should limit the number of Acushnet Residents and Non-Resident passes to 150 each this year.

Ms. Rotondo motioned to set the 2026 Beach Sticker rates as follows: \$45 for Fairhaven Resident Permits, \$25 for Senior Resident Permits, 150 Acushnet Resident Permits at \$45 (contingent upon the Town of Acushnet honoring use of the golf course for the full season), 150 Non-Resident Permits at \$175 and Seasonal Rental Property Transferable Permits at \$275. Mr. Lopes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo, and Ms. Smith in favor.

**VII. Public Comments / Open Forum**

Mr. Brady – Now that the water bills are being quarterly will we see the meter fees and sewer capital fees on every bill?

Mr. Furtado – The fees will be split on every bill and also the tiers will be cut in half since the bills will be quarterly instead of 6 months.

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**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

Superintendent Report for April 13, 2026

- POTW Schedule meeting
- Lots of calculations for TA re Fincom and water/sewer rates
- Meet with Engineer re Cherrystone sewer tie-in
- Meet with Brian and TA re trash fees
- Change Order meeting for POTW
- Haz Mitigation Plan Meeting
- Labor Counsel re Highway position changes
- Complete FY 27 MRV Insurance
- Meeting with Town Counsel re POTW Upgrade

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

**C. Board Members**

Mr. Hobson – The Highway Department did a nice job at Fort Phoenix cleaning up the debris from the snow. There are pots on Scoticut Neck Road near Raymond Street and Seaview Avenue and also by the quarter mile. What are the red ribbons on the trees on Scoticut Neck?

Mr. Crabb – Those are for surveying purpose for the MassDOT project.

Mr. Hobson – The pipe was clogged again on Bayside Street.

Mr. Crabb – We are in the process of establishing a drainage easement so I can legally go in there.

Ms. Rotondo -Could we consider coming up with some rules for the skatepark at Livesey Park and also for the pump track?

Ms. Smith – I believe the sign was taken down.

Mr. Crabb – We may need a supplemental sign in addition to the signs that are there.

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

Mr. Hobson – We have not met since the last meeting.

**E. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Related Matters**

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

Mr. Hobson motioned to set the date of the next meeting on April 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Lopes seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo, and Ms. Smith in favor

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lopes, Ms. Rotondo, and Ms. Smith in favor

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L. Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Business Manager

Minutes approved on April 27, 2027