

**Town of Fairhaven
Tree Hearing
April 16, 2026**



Present

Joshua Crabb, Highway Superintendent
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager
Donald Mulcare, Staffon Road
Barbara Acksen, Green Street
Josh Sanchez, Garrison Street
Jess Sanchez, Garrison Street
Angela Serpa, Staffon Road
David Stefanik, Harding Road

I. Call to Order

Mr. Furtado called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. Appointments

Mr. Crabb – In accordance with provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, section 3 and 4, notice has been given that a public hearing will be held to consider the removal of the following hazardous trees:

- 3 Wood Street
- 5 Staffon Road
- 7 Staffon Road
- 18 John Street
- 28 Garrison Street
- 30 Perry Street (2)
- 45 Center Street
- 53 Pleasant Street
- 71 Harding Road
- 88 Chestnut Street
- 131 Chestnut Street
- 25 Fort Street
- 27 Fort Street
- 93 Laurel Street
- 117 Washington Street
- 29 Atlas Street
- 30 Charity Stevens Lane

Mr. Crabb reviewed the quantity, size, species and locations of the eighteen trees that have been deemed hazardous by a certified arborist with the exception of 3 or 4 trees which were citizens petitions.

Mr. Mulcare – The two trees on Staffon Road are located in front of my property. Myself and all the neighbors are in favor of these trees being removed because they are a hazard and someone is going to get hurt.

Mr. Crabb – As long as we have no objections these trees are scheduled to come down.

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Ms. Acksen – I looked over the survey and it is nice that you had one done. I just have a question about it. Was the survey done by Google Earth or did the arborist actually come in?

Mr. Crabb – The arborist was physically here.

Mr. Furtado – It is great that we did the assessment but now we are on notice and have to act because the Town could be liable because we are aware of the hazardous trees.

Mr. Crabb – Every single tree on the list that we are discussing with the exception of the trees that are citizens petitions are priority two removals. Priority ones are the highest risk and priority twos are in the middle of the road.

Mr. Crabb explained the assessment to Ms. Acksen and explained that not all priorities are removals some of them are priority maintenance or prune.

Mr. Crabb – There are a couple hundred priority two removals on the assessment and after those are removed then we will get to a replanting phase in the future but as of right now we need to take care of the hazards and deadwood.

Ms. Acksen – Is the liability for the Town the same for Priority 1 and Priority 2?

Mr. Crabb – As long as we are actively working on the list than there is no liability to the town.

Ms. Serpa – I am in favor of the two trees on Staffon Road to be removed. Those trees have been deceased for a while and are hazardous.

Mr. Stefanik – I am in favor of the tree on Harding Road being removed.

Mr. Sanchez – I am in favor of the tree on Garrison Street being removed since our vehicle has been damaged twice and it has not been covered by the Towns Insurance. Do we know when we can expect the tree to be removed?

Mr. Crabb – We are chipping away at the list and will get it removed as soon as possible. If you can give me a few weeks to discuss with the contractor and check to make sure the funds are available.

Mr. Furtado motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager