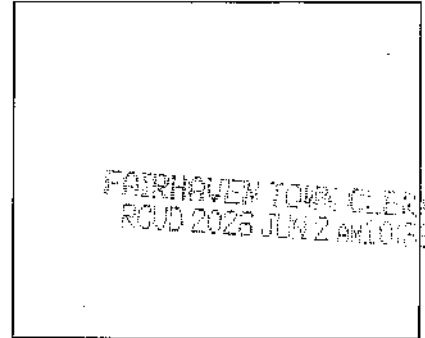


**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
May 11, 2026**



**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  
George Newman, Interview  
Bernadette Barreira, Recreation Director  
Dan Ferreira, Fairhaven Pickleball Association  
Ken Pottel, Fairhaven Pickleball Association  
Ron Soares, Fairhaven Pickleball Association  
Avery Santos  
Sarah Santos

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**II. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. April 27, 2026**

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of April 27, 2026. Ms. Smith seconded Vote unanimous.

**IV. Appointments**

**A. Interview and Hire Highway Department Heavy Motor Equipment Operator –  
George Newman**

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Crabb and I both interviewed Mr. Newman and we would like to recommend him for hire.

Mr. Hobson – Even though you are being hired as a truck driver I just want to make sure you know that you will not be in a truck all day long you will be more of a laborer.

Mr. Newman – I have no issues with physical work, I worked as a laborer and done physical work my whole life.

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
May 11, 2026**

Mr. Wotton motioned to hire Mr. Newman as a Heavy Motor Equipment Operator in the Highway Department as a Grade 5 Step 7. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Fairhaven Pickleball Association – Pickleball Courts in Parks**

Mr. Furtado - At a previous meeting, a few residents appeared before the Board to discuss concerns regarding logistics and access to the pickleball courts. Following that discussion, the Fairhaven Pickleball Association requested to be placed on the agenda to explain the procedures and systems currently in place for court usage.

Mr. Ferreira - The Fairhaven Pickleball Association is centered around community involvement and giving back to the community. He referenced the handout included in the meeting packet, noting that the front page outlined several of the Association's contributions to the community (Attachment A). The FPA is inclusive and encourages nonmembers to stop by and join games. Also, the court sign-up system consists of a whiteboard, similar to the systems used at the Recreation Center.

Mr. Pottel – The FPA currently has approximately 350 members and Mr. Ferreira is continually recruiting new participants. The membership numbers do not mean all members play daily. On a typical nice day at Livesey Park, approximately 35 people may be present with all four courts in use, limiting use to only three courts would create excessive wait times. As far as scheduling it is managed through the whiteboard system and that court use operates on a first-come, first-served basis

Mr. Soares - The FPA \$25 membership fee helps support many of the community contributions and operational items previously mentioned by Mr. Ferreira. Membership is required for access to the scheduling section of the app, which is intended only to inform players of locations, times, and skill-level groupings. I do not believe the system was excluding people from participating.

Mr. Ferreira – Our posted schedule on the app is intended only as a guideline to help players identify groups that match their skill level.

Mr. Furtado – I believe the primary concern raised at the prior meeting involved nonmembers of the FPA and how long they may need to wait before being able to play.

Ms. Smith – Yes, the concerns expressed by residents centered on the possibility of arriving at the courts and not being able to participate.

Mr. Soares - The whiteboard system addresses this issue, as players simply write their names under the court they wish to play on and rotate into games as courts become available.

Mr. Pottel - Some individuals wanted unrestricted first-come, first-served access that would allow them to play continuously for extended periods. Because there are usually players waiting for the next game, the whiteboard ensures participants rotate in and out fairly.

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
May 11, 2026**

Mr. Wotton - Another concern raised involved the removal of the whiteboard when FPA is not present.

Mr. Ferreira – That is correct, when we are not there we remove the white board.

Mr. Hobson – How do you reserve the courts at Fort Phoenix?

Mr. Ferreira – We do not.

Mr. Wotton thanked the representatives for attending the meeting to discuss the matter and also thanked the Fairhaven Pickleball Association for the work they continue to do within the community.

**C. Avery Santos, Garden in Cushman Park**

Mr. Furtado –Ms. Santos is a Junior at Fairhaven High School and she has to do a civics project which involves the garden a Cushman Park.

Ms. A Santos – For my project I was looking to host something like a reopening event for the garden because it has been open for about two years now and a lot of people, especially those who live near Cushman Park are not aware that it is there. I am looking to bring awareness to the Community about the Garden and make residents aware that they can take from it.

Ms. S Santos – I was one of the founders of the garden with Ms. Dungca and this garden was supposed to be for the community to take from but there was never any signage that made people aware of this. Also, I will take over the maintenance of the garden going forward. I have had some volunteers along with myself make signs on how to use the garden and let them know that the blooms, herbs, spices fruits and vegetables are able to be taken and enjoyed by the community.

Mr. Wotton – One of the biggest concerns that we have is that this garden currently looks abandon and there was no maintenance being done. What we need as a Board to allow this in a Public Space is a maintenance plan. We reached out to you folks because we were getting ready to remove it a few of the Board members saw the event advertised on Facebook.

Ms. Smith – I like the maintenance plan for the plantings but we need to make sure there is a maintenance plan for the equipment as well.

Ms. Rotondo – Any signage put up at the garden needs to be approved by this Board prior to it being installed.

Mr. Wotton - If this is something that you are planning to do on a yearly basis make sure you submit the maintenance plan to the Board for approval.

Ms. Smith motioned to allow Avery Santos to maintain the Garden in Cushman Park for one year and install informational signage for the garden pending approval from the Board. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
May 11, 2026**

**V. Items for Action**

**A. Phoenix Rail Trail Rehabilitation and Related Work, Pao Corp.**

**1. Sign Contract Agreement \$1,462,236.00**

Mr. Lopes motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with Pao Corp., for the Phoenix Rail Trail Rehabilitation and Related Work in the amount of \$1,462,236.90. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**2. Sign Notice to Proceed**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to Sign the Notice to Proceed with Pao Corp., for the Phoenix Rail Trail Rehabilitation and Related Work. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Walnut Street Sidewalk Rehabilitation and Related Work, Sandstone Construction Inc.**

**1. Sign Contract Agreement \$315,190.00**

**2. Notice to Proceed**

Mr. Furtado we are going to skip over both of these items tonight because we are waiting for the signed contract.

**C. Cushman Tennis Court Rehabilitation and Related Work, East Coast Sealcoating Inc.**

**1. Sign Contract Agreement \$99,680.00**

**2. Sign Notice to Proceed**

Mr. Furtado we are going to skip over both of these items tonight because we are waiting for the signed contract.

**D. 2026 Acushnet Resident West Island Beach Permits**

Mr. Furtado – If you recall when the Board voted on the fees the Board was concerned about the time frame that Acushnet is allowing Fairhaven residents to utilize the Golf Course at the resident rate. If we proceed with this agreement as we have for the past two-years, the Town of Acushnet will receive the permits for them to issue once we receive the check for the 150 permits.

Mr. Wotton – Yes, they need to issue their permits.

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
May 11, 2026**

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the 150 Acushnet permits to be sold by the Town of Acushnet, pending the use of the golf course for the entire season once the check has been received. If they do not allow the use of the golf course for the entire season, the 150 permits will be sold at the regular out-of-town permit price of \$175. Mr. Hobson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**E. Tata & Howard, Supply Capacity Evaluation Payment #27 \$1,009.30**

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Tata & Howard Supply Capacity Evaluation Payment #27 in the amount of \$1,009.30. Mr. Lopes seconded Vote unanimous.

**F. Tata & Howard, Risk & Resilience Assessment Round 2 Payment #6 \$1,285.73**

Mr. Lopes motioned to approve Tata & Howard Risk & Resilience Assessment Round 2 Payment #6 in the amount of \$1,285.73. Ms. Rotondo seconded Vote unanimous.

**G. Hire 2026 West Island Town Beach Employees**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to hire the West Island Town Beach Employees as presented. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VI. Tabled Matters**

**A. N/A**

**VIII. Old Business / New Business**

**A. Superintendent**

**Superintendent Report for May 11, 2026**

- Town Meeting - will answer any questions
- Bike Path work began
- Traffic and Speed Meeting
- POTW Schedule Meeting
- HMEO Interview
- Meet with Pickle Ball Committee re repairs
- POTW Schedule meeting
- Forestview drainage update

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
May 11, 2026**

- Department Head Meeting
- Catch basin tracking meeting
- Glenhaven Pre-Construction Meeting
- Labor Counsel re Highway Change in duties
- Meeting with Town Counsel re POTW Upgrade
- Change Order meeting for POTW
- Continue to meet with SB Candidates
- Claims with MCC

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

**B. Board Members**

Mr. Hobson – The street sign is still missing on Saltmarsh Road, Bayberry Street needs stone and the pipe on Bayside Street is clogged again.

Ms. Smith – There are a lot of broken curbs around town do we have to make the repairs before June 30<sup>th</sup>?

Mr. Crabb – With the money left in the FY2026 budget I can repair approximately a quarter of the repairs.

Ms. Smith – I know that over the summer they will be rehabbing the rail trail, are we going to be mowing in the center prior to their completion?

Mr. Crabb – It is on the list to be done. We are just finishing up with storm damage repairs. Just so everyone is aware that cutting grass will be delayed since we are down bodies.

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

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

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

Ms. Smith motioned to set the date of the next meeting on June 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
May 11, 2026**

**X. Adjourn**

Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca L. Vento*

Rebecca Vento  
Business Manager

Minutes approved on June 1, 2026