

Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

**Belonging Committee Meeting Minutes - Final, as approved on
5/18/26**



Date, Time, and Location:

April 1, 2026 * 6:30 PM

Town Hall (40 Center St.)

Remote via ZOOM: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 892 1866 8394; Passcode: 686316

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89218668394?pwd=RUptbUowRU1HOEJwbVp4OW9yL05sZz09>

On March 28, 2025, Governor Healey signed a bill extending the Open Meeting Law provisions that allow public bodies to hold remote and hybrid meetings through June 30, 2027. Pursuant to an amendment to Town Bylaw Chapter 50 § 13, all government meetings are available through web/video conference and are recorded.

<https://www.mass.gov/the-open-meeting-law>

Present:

Alliea Group, Chair

Kelly Ochoa, Vice Chair

Rachel Medeiros, Clerk

Absent:

I. Call to Order and Review of Open Meeting Notice

II. Welcome & Quorum

As quorum has not yet been met, the meeting continued as information sharing only.

III. Updates

Alliea Group confirmed that the Belonging Committee does have funds to pay the invoice from the gift account. A new plan is in place to avoid delayed invoices in the future.

Monday, April 13th, the committee planning the Fairhaven's Got Pride 2026 will host their first meeting. A date has not been set, awaiting confirmation of other summer events hosted by the town, to avoid overlapping dates. Members share that it is ideal to avoid coinciding with New Bedford's pride event and Fairhaven town events.

A request had previously been submitted to the town to purchase new Juneteenth and Pride flags that have grommets on both the short and long sides to enable them to be flown in both directions on Town Hall.

Review of Fairhaven's 214th Birthday Celebration: A review of the committee's participating in the celebration was reviewed.

Conflict of Interest Law Training: All members must complete the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law Training on-line. If you have not received the email with the link, please let Alleia know.

IV. **Quorum:** As quorum has been met, the meeting continued, as scheduled.

V. **New Business:**

A motion was made by Alleia Group to eliminate the following items from this agenda, Membership & Welcome New Member, Committee Budget & Spending Priorities, Committee Priority Discernment and seconded by Kelly Ochoa. A roll call vote was held; the motion was confirmed.

Approval of Prior Minutes from February 4, 2026

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 4, 2026, was made by Kelly Ochoa and seconded by Rachel Medeiros. A roll call vote was held; the minutes have been accepted as submitted.

A motion was made by Kelly Ochoa and seconded by Rachel Medeiros to pay the outstanding invoice to the Fairhaven Police Department for the Fairhaven's Got Pride 2025 event in the amount of \$248.00 from our gift account. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed.

2026 LGBTQIA+ Pride (TBD)

Rachel Medeiros made a motion to request that the Select Board hang both the Juneteenth flag and the LGBTQ pride flag at town hall during the month of June 2026. Kelly Ochoa seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed.

A motion was made by Alleia Group to eliminate the remaining items from the agenda. Kelly Ochoa seconded. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed.

III. **Other Business**

Items Not Previously Anticipated/Board Member Comments

IV. **Public Comments** - no comments were received

V. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 at 6:30 PM**

VI. **Adjourn** – A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Alleia Group and seconded by Kelly Ochoa. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed.