

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
August 31, 2026**

**FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2026 SEP 17 PM 1:55**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner
Marcus Ferro, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Business Manager
Josh Crabb, Highway Superintendent
David Colon, Highway Department

I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Wotton reconvened the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. N/A

IV. Appointments

A. Interview / Hire Highway Department Heavy Motor Equipment Operator

Mr. Furtado – Mr. Colon has been with the Town since the beginning of April and took advantage of the CDL training provided by the Town to obtain his CDL. Mr. Crabb and I recommend that the Board hire him as a Heavy Motor Equipment Operator at a Grade 5, Step 5.

Mr. Hobson motioned to hire Mr. Colon as a Heavy Motor Equipment Operator in the Highway Department at Grade 5, Step 5, effective August 31, 2026. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Items for Action

A. Sign Engineering Agreement, GCG Associates, Frederick Avenue \$4,955.00

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign the Engineering Agreement with GCG Associated for Frederick Avenue in the amount of \$4,955.00. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

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**B. Dig It Construction, Spring Street Water Main Replacement, Change Order #2
\$61,951.50**

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Dig It Construction, Spring Street Water Main Replacement, Change Order #2 in the amount of \$61,951.50. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

C. Signage and Policies for Livesey Skatepark / Macomber BMX Track

Mr. Furtado reviewed the track rules that were previously approved by the Board.

Ms. Rotondo – I would like to see these rules posted near the Macomber-Pimentel Park sign.

Mr. Ferro – I know you wanted something regarding no e-bikes, and the current sign should mention it. I would recommend that these rules be bulleted and emphasize no e-bikes or e-scooters.

Mr. Wotton motioned to accept the signage, pending the discussed changes, for the Macomber-Pimentel Park Pump Track. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

Ms. Smith – For the Livesey sign, I think we should add no RC cars, no e-bikes, or e-scooters.

Mr. Wotton – I don't think we should limit it to just scooters. I know there are kids who use bikes.

Ms. Rotondo – I agree, just no e-bikes or e-scooters.

Mr. Hobson motioned to accept the changes for Livesey Park. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Beta Group, Park Assessment, Payment #8 \$1,984.32

Mr. Furtado – The Park Assessment that was scheduled for Sept 24th has to be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts with the Town Hall Auditorium.

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Beta Group Park Assessment Payment #8 in the amount of \$1,984.32.

Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Methuen Construction, WPCF Upgrades, Change Order 8 \$158,513.46

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Methuen Construction, WPCG Upgrades Change Order #8 in the amount of \$151,513.46. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

F. East Coast Seal Coating, Cushman Park Tennis Courts, Payment #1 \$91,880.00

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve East Coast Seal Coating, Cushman Park Tennis Courts, Payment #1 in the amount of \$91,880.00. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

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G. PAO Pay Req # 4 \$212,374.42

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Pao Corp. Rail Trail Improvement Project Payment #4 \$212,374.42. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

H. PAO Pay Req # 5 \$48,447.37

Ms. Rotondo motioned to approve Pao Corp. Rail Trail Improvement Project Payment #5 \$48,447.37. Mr. Ferro seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. PAO Corp. Change Order #1 \$285,000

Mr. Ferro motioned to approve Pao Corp. Rail Trail Improvement Project Change Order #1 \$285,000. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

J. Agreement for Environmental Monitoring Bridge Street Landfill Fiscal Year 2027 \$30,740

Mr. Wotton – We are going to skip over this until the next meeting.

K. Naming of Phoenix Rail Trail

Mr. Furtado – We put this on the agenda because the dedication for the Phoenix Rail Trail is slated for October 17th. The Green Lanterns were kind enough to create the signs and fundraise for three signs. We would just like the Board to approve the name of the Rail Trail.

Mr. Wotton motioned to keep the name of the Phoenix Rail Trail as the Phoenix Rail Trail. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

I. Recycle Center Policy

Mr. Furtado – At the last meeting, the Board was informed that a contractor had violated the rules and dumped materials when the Recycle Center was closed. They took it upon themselves to enter through an employee-authorized area and dump. There was no fine or policy in place.

Mr. Wotton – I would also like to see this added to the permit so that they are signing to acknowledge that they are aware of the policy.

Mr. Hobson motioned to accept the policy addition regarding illegal dumping. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

A. Memorial Benches

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Mr. Wotton motioned to bring the discussion of Memorial Benches back to the table for further discussion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Ms. Rotondo, and Mr. Ferro in favor.

Mr. Crabb – I believe this was brought before the Board because there have been some concerns regarding the available space.

Mr. Wotton – I cannot see adding any more benches at Fort Phoenix. The only area that might potentially be available for adding a bench is the walkway between the pathway and the dike.

Mr. Ferro – We sympathize with the families who have lost loved ones. Unfortunately, the space is full, and with the available space, we might be crowding the area. I think placing these benches elsewhere in Town would be a great alternative.

Ms. Smith – Could we take some pictures of the available locations so that when people inquire about locations, we can send them the pictures?

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for August 31, 2026

- Meet with TA and Labor Counsel re: BPW Authority
- FYI letter to EPA re POTW Substantial Completion is forthcoming
- Attend Selectboard Meeting re Water and Sewer Non-SRF borrowing
- Department Head Meeting
- Frederick St issue
- Synagro Rep contract extension complete
- POTW Progress Meeting
- POTW PCO Meeting
- Meeting with Methuen President re project status
- Attend POTW Work Scheduling Review Meeting
- Meet with Labor Counsel re reclassification of some positions

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

A. Board Members

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Mr. Hobson – Brush needs to be cut on Camel Street, Diamond Street, Union Wharf, and Washington Street just before the fire station. Since Raymond Street was tarred, heavy rain has been causing flooding onto residents' properties.

Ms. Smith – The ribbon cutting for the Phoenix Rail Trail will be held on Saturday, October 17th.

Mr. Wotton – Will the ice cream cottage be open?

Ms. Smith – I do not believe so.

Mr. Wotton – Maybe McGraw Back Porch would like to attend.

B. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson - We have not met since our last meeting.

C. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Related Matters

Ms. Smith – The CPC held its first meeting of the season, and the Pickleball and Tennis Association appeared before the Committee. They were informed that any changes to the original proposal would need to go before Town Meeting.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Ms. Smith motioned to set the date of the next meeting on September 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. and to enter into executive session and reconvene in open session. Mr. Hobson seconded. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Ms. Rotondo and Mr. Ferro in favor.

Ms. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L Vento

Rebecca Vento
Business Manager

Minutes approved on September 14, 2026.