



Belonging Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Date, Time, and Location:

February 4, 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, the bill to extend the Open Meeting Law regulations governing remote participation passed MA legislation and was signed by the Governor. This bill will allow remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through June 30, 2027. Pursuant to Town By-Law Chapter 50 § 13, all government meetings are available through web/video conference and are recorded. This meeting is being recorded by the Government Access Channel. It will be replayed on Channel 97 and posted on FairhavenTv.com. Fairhaven TV participation protocol is as follows: If participating remotely, Zoom camera video for all participants is disabled. If participants would like to speak or be recognized, click "raise hand" under "reactions", and change your profile to your full name to be unmuted. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting the integrity of Fairhaven government meetings.

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

Present:

Alliea Group, Chair

Kelly Ochoa, Vice Chair

Rachel Medeiros

Laura Barillaro

Andrew Romano, Select Board Representative

Agenda:

Review of Open Meeting Notice: Alliea Group reviewed the Open Meeting Law notice.

Welcome & Quorum: As a quorum was met, the meeting continued as scheduled.

New Business:

Open Clerk Position: A motion was made by Kelly Ochoa and seconded by Alliea Group to recommend Rachel Medeiros for the position of Clerk. Rachel Medeiros accepted the nomination. A roll call vote was held; the nomination was confirmed.

Committee Membership:

At this moment, we have three open positions on the committee. To apply for the committee, visit the Town of Fairhaven website: <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/volunteer-opportunities/> Andrew Romano, Select Board representative, reminded the committee and the public that the Belonging Committee does not have a residency requirement.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 21, 2025, was made by Kelly Ochoa and seconded by Laura Barillaro. A roll call vote was held; the minutes have been accepted as submitted.

As a quorum was not met at the meeting held on November 18, 2025, it was limited to information sharing only. The notes from this meeting were distributed to the members of the committee, and the video is available on Fairhaven TV.

Review of Proposed Annual Calendar: The committee reviewed the proposed annual calendar and prioritized events for 2026.

LGBTQIA+ Pride

Independence Day

Disability Pride

Fairhaven TV Halloween Fest

Olde Tyme Holiday Festival

Fairhaven's 214th Birthday

A motion was made by Kelly Ochoa and seconded by Rachel Medeiros to participate in the Fairhaven 214th Birthday celebration on Sunday, February 22nd, at Town Hall from 1-5 pm at Town Hall. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed unanimously.

Pride 2025 – Outstanding Invoice for Fairhaven Police:

A motion was made by Kelly Ochoa and seconded by Rachel Medeiros to pay the outstanding invoice for the Fairhaven Police Department for the Pride 2025 celebration in the amount of \$248.00. A roll call vote was held; the motion passed.

Old Business:

Items Not Previously Anticipated/Board Member Comments: No comments were received.

Public Comments – no public comments were received.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 6 PM

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