



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS
Economic Development Committee
Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 15, 2026 at

5:30 PM Held both at Town Hall &

Remotely via Zoom

1. Chair's Welcome & Media Notification:

Chair, Ms. Cathy Melanson, opened the meeting at 5:33pm and welcomed all.

2. Quorum/ Attendance:

Present: Cathy Melanson, John Hinds, Karyn Ferreira, & Bob Hannan.

Absent: Nils Isaksen.

Mr. Miles Grant was present on Zoom.

Ms. Hailey Hemingway, the Recording Secretary, was present at the Town Hall.

3. Review and Approve minute of October 16, 2025 meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes for October 16, 2025 made by Mr. Melanson, seconded by Ms. Ferreira. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

4. Correspondence from Rebecca Roughley, Mr. Hickey asking for an appointment to help gather Date with SRPEDD and Rebecca Roughley:

Ms. Melanson mentioned information regarding grants was sent to Mr. Keith Hickey, the Town Administrator, by Ms. Rebecca Roughley, the Towns Grant Writer.

Ms. Roughley mentioned holding bi-weekly meetings.

Ms. Melanson nominated Mr. John Hinds to be on this committee. Mr. Hinds accepted the nomination.

Motion to nominate Mr. Hinds for the committee made by Ms. Melanson, seconded by Ms. Ferreira. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

5. Upcoming EDC Networking Event March 19, 2026 at Travelers:

Ms. Melanson confirmed the next EDC Networking Event will be at Travelers Ale House on March 19, 2026 at 5:30pm.

Mr. Hinds mentioned the topic of inter-business discounts and deals for the event.

Ms. Melanson mentioned requesting business cards for Mr. Mark Sylvia and his assistant.

Mr. Hinds mentioned possibility of getting a list together of possible discounts Fairhaven businesses would give out to other businesses.

Ms. Melanson noted there is an event for the Towns 214th Birthday on Sunday, February 22, 2026. Ms. Melanson mentioned there will be food trucks and fire pits.

Ms. Melanson noted there were heat towers purchased for the events.

6. Local New and Potential Businesses:

Ms. Melanson noted the Sail Loft Tavern, located at 109 Middle Street, is working on getting ready to open.

Ms. Melanson noted Sam and Johns Pizza, located at 390 Main Street, is open. Ms. Melanson noted she will reach out to set up a ribbon cutting.

Ms. Ferreira noted there is going to be a spa opening up and will get more information.

Ms. Melanson noted there is progress on a tattoo parlor opening.

Ms. Melanson noted Whaling City Flowers moved locations to 50 Main Street.

Ms. Melanson noted a Big Y will be opening in 2027.

Mr. Hannan questioned status on land that was part of the 40R extension behind Staples. Ms. Melanson noted speaking to owner of the land and will get update by the end of the month.

7. Updated from John Hinds:

Mr. Hinds noted speaking to contractors, a developer, the Building Inspector, Mr. Rick Forand, Anne Carreiro, the Town Accountant, and Mr. Keith Hickey, the Town Administrator, regarding his information received.

Mr. Hinds mentioned he will be having a meeting with Mr. Keith Hickey.

Mr. Hinds noted he requested information on a Retail Gap Study that was done in previous years.

Ms. Melanson mentioned after Mr. Hinds has the meeting with Mr. Hickey, to give the Board an update.

Ms. Melanson spoke favorably about work being done to build more business and get more growth in Fairhaven.

8. Community Development Coordinator Updates:

Ms. Alyssa Botelho, the Community Development Coordinator, was not present at this meeting.

9. Any other business reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting:

Mr. Hannan noted he will be submitting his resignation for this Committee to the Select Board and this will be his last meeting.

10. Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next regular Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 5:30pm.

The meeting closed at 6:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hailey Anne Hemingway