



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS
PLANNING BOARD
Town Hall - 40 Center Street - Fairhaven, MA 02719

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 27, 2026
at 6:30PM Held both at Town Hall
& Remotely via Zoom

1. GENERAL BUSINESS:

a. Welcome and Media Notification:

Chair, Ms. Fidalgo, opened the meeting at 6:33pm and welcomed all. Ms. Fidalgo read the open meeting law protocols and procedures.

b. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Board stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

c. Quorum/Attendance:

Present: Jessica Fidalgo, Jeffrey Lucas, Ruy DaSilva, Sharon Simmons, & Patrick Carr.

Zoom: Miles Grant, Kevin Grant, & Sean Powers.

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

d. Meeting Minutes- Drafts to be reviewed:

Motion to accept the meeting minutes for the meeting on January 13, 2026 made by Ms. Simmons, seconded by Mr. DaSilva. Motion passed unanimously. (8-0)

e. Correspondence- Michelle Costin:

The Board members confirmed they received the correspondence.

2. PUBLIC HEARING:

- a. SD25-02 at 0 Duchaine Street- Potential Properties, LLC proposes to subdivide the property to create 2 building lots by creating the legal frontage along the street with a construction of a 20-foot-wide gravel roadway and hammerhead turn around. The property is located at 0 Duchaine Street Map 34, Lot 38:

Mr. Dave Davignon, from Schneider, Davignon, and Leone, was present on Zoom to speak to the Board regarding the plans.

Mr. Davignon confirmed the length of the paved apron has been extended, a sidewalk was added to the East side of the Road, a hydrant was added, and a street sign was added to the plan as requested.

Mr. Davignon received confirmation there is not another street in Fairhaven with the name Duchaine.

Mr. Davignon confirmed a curb cut application was submitted to Mass DOT and there were changes Mass DOT asked to be made.

Mr. Davignon noted the Stormwater Analysis is still in progress.

Mr. Davignon requested a continuance to the Planning Board meeting on February 24, 2026.

The Board discussed concerns regarding the wetlands, the paving plan, the proposed hammerhead, certified loam and fill, mail delivery, and plowing.

The Board will request clarification on process of Stormwater Review in Town.

Mr. Carr questioned if the hammerhead for emergency was looked over by the Fire Department. Mr. Davignon confirmed the plan was submitted for review and the Staff Report includes confirmation from the Fire Department that there are no issues with the plans.

Abutters raised concerns with the gravel road being proposed and drainage concerns.

Ms. Fidalgo requested the Board to consider voting to have a Peer Review done. Mr. Davignon asked the Board if this vote can be put on hold until the Stormwater Analysis is presented by Mr. Davignon.

Motion to continue SD25-02 at 0 Duchaine Street to February 24, 2026 made by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. DaSilva. Motion passed unanimously. (8-0)

3. RECEIPT OF PLANS:

Ms. Fidalgo noted there were no new plans received.

4. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. **PS25-01- 4 Earle Street:** Map 31A, Lot 453 an existing single-family residential lot accessed via Earle Street, a private way. The parcel is in the Residential A zoning district. This is a preliminary subdivision application:

Ms. Sharon Simmons recused herself from this agenda item.

Mr. Alfons Koka, Engineer from KBM Design Group, is present on Zoom to speak to the Board regarding this application.

Mr. Koka confirmed the plan is to subdivide the property, and includes an extended 15-foot-wide gravel road with trench drains. The property would be connected to a well and be tied into Town sewer with an E-1 pump. Mr. Koka confirmed there are two easements on the property, a utility easement for a Sewer Force Main and an easement for a grass walking path for a bus stop.

Mr. Koka noted the proposal includes the use of the driveway as part of a hammerhead turn around for emergency vehicle access.

Mr. Koka confirmed the gravel road would be out of the 25 foot no touch buffer zone.

Ms. Fidalgo noted the application is being looked at by the Conservation Committee.

Ms. Fidalgo noted Fire Department had concerns with the property using the driveway as part of the hammerhead and needing to have a fire hydrant installed.

Mr. Koka confirmed he did not receive the Staff Report. Mr. Koka confirmed he will request the Staff Report tomorrow, January 28, 2026.

The Board discussed concerns with the hammerhead proposed, the fire hydrant proposed but the property being on a well.

Abutters raised concerns regarding location of the driveway, the sewer easement, and the road size.

Mr. Lucas noted possible proposal for an ownership agreement for maintenance of Earle Street. Mr. Cordero spoke in favor of discussing and possibility of an ownership agreement.

Ms. Fidalgo confirmed this item was on a Board of Health agenda for the well but the response was not brought to the Planning Board.

Motion to continue PS25-01 – 4 Earle Street to the meeting on February 10, 2026 made by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. DaSilva. Motion passed unanimously (8-0).

- b. Updates from Committee Liaisons:

Ms. Fidalgo confirmed SRPEDD is having a meeting on Wednesday, January 28,

2026.

Mr. Carr confirmed Rogers Re Use Committee is on hold.

Mr. Miles Grant confirmed Livable Streets Committee had a meeting and Mr. Jonathan Camara is the new chair for that committee.

5. LONG RANGE PLANNING:

a. Update Board on Bylaws:

Ms. Fidalgo noted the part time Planner emailed Mr. Brovitz regarding concerns discussed at the previous meeting. Ms. Fidalgo noted Mr. Brovitz is not currently working.

Ms. Simmons noted at the last meeting there was discussion on compiling past documents.

Mr. Carr noted these Bylaws would have to be voted on a Town Meeting.

b. Any other business that may properly come before the Board, not reasonably anticipated when posting 48 hours prior to this meeting:

Mr. DaSilva questioned status on the Town Planner. Mr. Keith Silvia, Select Board Member, noted the Planning Position has not been posted at this time.

The Board discussed the possibility of each Board member getting their own personal town email. Ms. Fidalgo noted having a vote at the next meeting to request getting emails for the Board members.

6. NEXT MEETING:

Joint Executive Session with Select Board scheduled for Monday, January 2, 2026 at 5:45pm.

The next scheduled Regular Board Meeting is on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:30pm.

7. ADJOURN:

The Meeting adjourned at 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hailey Anne Hemingway

Minutes approved at the Planning Board meeting on January 10, 2026.