



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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 10, 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 6:34pm 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, Sharon Simmons, Ruy DaSilva, & Patrick Carr.

Absent: Kevin Grant & Sean Powers.

Mr. Miles Grant arrived at the meeting at 6:36pm.

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

There is a quorum.

d. Meeting Minutes- Drafts to be reviewed:

Motion to accept minutes for the meeting for January 27, 2026 made by Ms. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Carr. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

e. Correspondence:

Ms. Fidalgo noted there was no correspondence received.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

There was no discussion on this agenda item.

3. **RECEIPT OF PLANS:**

Ms. Fidalgo confirmed there were no 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- Applicant is requesting to continue to February 24, 2026:

Ms. Simmons recused herself from this agenda item.

Ms. Fidalgo noted the applicant is asking for a continuance due to staff comments.

Motion for a continuance of PS25-01- 4 Earle Street- Map 31A, Lot 453 made by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Miles Grant. Motion passed unanimously (5-0). Ms. Simmons recused.

- b. **SP23-09-420 B LLC- Bridge Street request to extend upcoming expiration to Special Permit:**

Mr. Alex Carrigg was present to discuss with the Board.

Mr. Carrigg noted they need some more time to organize and get finished.

Mr. Carrigg noted this project is not abandoned.

Mr. Carrigg noted there was a delay with the Conservation Commission due to stormwater.

The expiration for the permit is April 17, 2026

Mr. Carrigg confirmed they are requesting a 2 year time extension.

Motion to approve the continuance of SP23-09-420 B LLC- looking to extend the expiration date to April 17, 2028 made by Mr. Carr, seconded by Ms. Simmons. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

c. Updates from Committee Liaisons:

Ms. Fidalgo confirmed there was a SRPEDD meeting. Ms. Fidalgo was not present for the meeting. Ms. Fidalgo handed out the presentation given at SRPEDD (See attachment A.)

Mr. Miles Grant noted the Livable Streets Committee meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Miles Grant noted there is an EDC meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2026 and there are two ribbon cuttings at Fairhaven Tattoo and the Sail House Tavern.

Mr. Carr mentioned the draft is finished for the New Bedford/ Fairhaven Harbor Plan Committee. Mr. Carr noted the draft will be implemented at the next meeting.

Mr. Carr mentioned there was an email received from the Rogers Reuse Committee. Mr. Carr noted there are court briefs waiting to be distributed. Mr. Carr noted Rogers School was placed on the National Historic Register.

**5. LONG RANGE PLANNING:**

a. Board discussion on possible bylaw updates, priorities, and work:

Ms. Fidalgo noted this item is a standing agenda item and there is still information being waited on.

Ms. Fidalgo noted she had a meeting with Ms. Cathy Melanson, the Past Chair. Ms. Fidalgo noted Mr. Paul DiGiuseppe was looking at lot sizes and house sizing changes with the goal to be changing small sections of Town.

Ms. Fidalgo noted the Building inspector is looking at Zoning Bylaws changes.

The Board discussed getting information together on the developable land in Town and getting the information regarding the possible Land Trust proposed. Ms. Simmons noted she will look at the maps.

The Board noted these changes will not make it for this Town Meeting but the info could be ready for the following Town Meeting.

Mr. Miles Grant confirmed Economic Development Committee member Mr. John Hinds has compiled information on vacant Town properties.

Ms. Fidalgo mentioned she will send a follow up email to Mr. Keith Hickey, the Town Administrator.

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

Ms. Simmons mentioned past discussions of the bus stops and looking to get bus shelters. The Board noted possible bus shelter locations on Alden Road near Plaza Way, Main Street near Fairhaven High School, and Bridge Street near the Walmart.

Mr. Keith Silvia confirmed Mr. Andrew Saunders is the SRTA liaison.

Ms. Fidalgo noted she will reach out to Mr. Saunders to check on discussion of bus shelters.

**6. NEXT MEETING:**

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:30pm.

**7. ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Board, this meeting is adjourned.

The meeting closed at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Hailey Anne Hemingway*

Minutes approved at the Planning Board Meeting on March 10, 2026.

### **Overview:**

The attached presentation provides an overview of the Massachusetts Integrated Land Use Strategy (MILUS), a state-led, multi-agency effort to better coordinate housing, transportation, clean energy, conservation, and economic development decisions across the Commonwealth.

### **What MILUS Is (and Is Not):**

#### **Is:**

-A guidance and coordination framework for state agencies. A GIS-based planning and decision-support tool intended to reduce conflicting state policies and investments

#### **Is Not:**

-A zoning change, a regulatory mandate on municipalities, a replacement for local planning authority.

### **Why This Matters to Fairhaven: *It may influence:***

-Infrastructure and transportation investment priorities

-Over time, municipalities whose plans align with MILUS priorities may see stronger alignment with state programs and funding opportunities.

### **Current Status:**

-MILUS is still in development and has not been finalized or adopted.

-Draft strategy and GIS mapping tools are being developed through 2025, with anticipated refinement and broader rollout into 2026.

-State agencies and Regional Planning Agencies (including SRPEDD) are currently participating in working groups and coordination efforts.

### **Role of SRPEDD:**

-Interpreting MILUS for municipalities

-Integrating state priorities with regional and local planning

-Providing feedback to ensure local context and constraints are reflected

-SRPEDD will serve as the primary conduit for Fairhaven's engagement with this initiative.

### **Key Takeaway for the Board:**

-MILUS should be viewed as an emerging state coordination tool, not a directive.

Continued monitoring and engagement through SRPEDD will be important to ensure Fairhaven's local planning priorities, infrastructure realities, and coastal and community considerations are understood as the framework is finalized.