



## Town of Fairhaven Council on Aging

Fairhaven Council on Aging • 229 Huttleston Ave, Fairhaven, MA 02719  
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### Fairhaven Council on Aging • Board Meeting Minutes March 10, 2026

**Present:** Martha Reed, Terry Pereira, Joyce Veilleux, Carol Burt, Nancy Santoro, & Michael Hevey  
**Absent:** Susan Oiestad & Joan Mello

- 1) **The meeting was legally posted on Thursday March 5, 2026**
- 2) **The meeting was called to order by Martha Reed at 9:08 am**
- 3) **Meeting Minutes:**
  - a. Carol B. made the motion to approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2026 Meeting, Michael H. & Joyce V., seconded. Vote passes.
- 4) **Financial Report:** All the credits for the eclectic have been noticed to be on the Recreation Centers bill. They have redistributed the credits and by next month's bill we shall have a credit for this year and the next. The COA will be getting the new van very soon, hopefully before July 1st. All funds to be owed on the van are coming from grant funding, and no town funding.
- 5) **Old Business**
  - a. **FY27 Budget:** Two budgets were asked to be prepared. If they are not able to meet or pass an over-ride to pass the level funded budget, we will have a \$1,400 budget cut. The COA has other funding sources that should account for the loss. If the COA is asked to take a deeper cut, the only place would be to cut staffing position's which would be a van driver, maximum reduction would be a day of transportation.
  - b. **ARAW FY26-27 Grant:** Submitted a grant for \$20k, approved for \$15k. The money is unrestricted use, but will not be used for operations. It will be used to help fund the van and positions if any cuts are made.
  - c. **AARP Taxes:** Taxes are continuing, 16 people per day.
  - d. **Upcoming Event-Easter Dinner:** We want to thank Cana Cares for their donation of \$1,750.00, this will cover the Easter Dinner meal. Catered by D&D.
- 6.) **New Business**
  - a. **Upcoming Events-Spring and Summer Programming:** *Upcoming programming sheet*  
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## Upcoming Programming Spring / Summer Programming March 10, 2026 BOD Meeting

### **March 20, 2026 - 12:00pm**

#### **Social Security Virtual Informational Session**

with Delia Demello- Metropolitan Public Affairs Specialist-SSA

Learn about the Social Security Fairness Act and if and how it applies to you

- New process for accessing my Social Security account
- New process for handling Direct Deposit changes
- New appointment only process
- Medicare costs for 2026
- What to do if you are overpaid benefits
- Online tools and services
- Fraud, Scams and ID theft

### **April 5, 2026 - 11:00am -1:00pm**

#### **Easter Dinner at the Council on Aging**

Ham, Red Bliss Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Butter, Cookies & Brownies. Must call by March 25<sup>th</sup> to sign up. (Catered By D&D Catering)

### **April 9, 2026 - 12:30pm**

#### **Matt Yorks Country Music Revue**

Featuring the songs of classic country and honky-tonk artists.  
(Supported by the Fairhaven Cultural Council)

### **April 21, 2026 - 9:30 am**

#### **Safety Presentation with Joel Ayala from BBB**

### **April 28, 2026 - 12:30pm**

#### **Age Friendly Mobility Southeast Mass**

The Age-Friendly Mobility - Southeast Mass Plan will identify needs, priorities, and recommendations for future SRPEDD technical assistance work relating to improvements in older adult mobility across Southeastern Massachusetts' 27 communities. SRPEDD staff will be on site to hear about your transportation and mobility concerns.

### **COA : In Progress**

- **April Craft**- Beginner Crochet Project
- **Future Presentation:** Why Your Joints Hurt: Hidden Ingredients in Everyday Foods
- **Future Craft:** Take a make Mini Garden
- **Game Show:** Kevin Richman will return in July to play multiple Live Game shows everyone knows from TV: Wheel of Fortune, Concentration, Family Feud, Jeopardy & Match Game.
- **Council on Aging Community Cookbook:** All submitted recipes will be lovingly gathered and turned into the very first Community Cookbook at the Fairhaven Council on Aging! Fresh off the press just in time for Christmas, these cookbooks will be available for purchase right here at the COA. Whether you share a recipe or take one home, you will be part of something warm, meaningful, and made with our wonderful community in mind. Let's fill these pages—and our hearts—with something delicious!

### **Social Day : In Progress**

- **Possible Trips:** Whaling Museum, Ft. Taber, Ft. Pheonix, Neds Point, Zoo Vlsit, K&A Creations
- **Intergenerational Game**
- **Day of Portugal-** Learning about the Culture & Food Tasting
- **Outdoor Games/ Walks**
- **Gardening**
- **Bird Feeder Crafts**

**Please be advised that the annual local election has been rescheduled to June 9, 2026. The Town Meeting has voted to permanently change the election date to the second Tuesday in June.**

**b. Kitchen Renovation Update:** Choosing the contractor as well as picking out the countertops this week. Hoping to start construction at the end of April. Cabinets, countertops and locks will be replaced. Little bit a plumbing work will be happening to have the dishwasher functioning. Using funds from Air Mark from Rep. Mark Silvia 25K and using Formula Grant funds.

7.) **Directors Report-** During the snow storm, we only lost power, no damages as well as losses. Closed for the week to the public after the storm. No Transportation was provided. Center was open on Thursday and Friday to staff only to catch up on administrative tasks. Rich was our Bingo caller on Fridays, who is not a COA Staff, he is janitorial staff, his schedule had to change. Rather than cancel bingo, we are having it once a month, Music Bingo at the end of the month and Bunco on the remaining Fridays.

**Fairhaven Council on Aging  
Board Meeting  
Director's Report-March 10, 2026**

**Senior Center/Program Utilization:**

	January 2026	Year to Date Total
Events	279	279
Unduplicated Persons	549	549
Units of Service	1,827	1,827
S.H.I.N.E. Appts	194 (137 unduplicated)	194 (137 unduplicated)
Daily Utilization Rate	67.7	67.7

**Transportation Utilization**

In January, 38 seniors relied on our transportation program for a total of 110 rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, and community programs. It should be noted that transportation services were limited during the last two weeks of January due to snow and ice conditions.

**Volunteer Contributions**

In January, 22 dedicated volunteers contributed more than 530 hours of service, representing an estimated in-kind value of approximately \$18,500. Their continued commitment plays a vital role in supporting the Council on Aging's programs and services.

**Program Services Summary**

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)& Emergency Food/Gift Cards:**

In January, five households received assistance with SNAP applications, screenings, recertifications, and required documentation. Additionally, two households received emergency grocery gift cards.

### **Housing Stability Services**

During January, staff assisted five households with eviction prevention efforts, housing applications, and referrals to appropriate housing resources.

### **Community Surplus Food Program**

Through our partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank's Community Surplus Food Program, 55 households received food assistance during the month of January.

### **Fairhaven Community Outreach Partnership**

In January, four active cases received ongoing support through this partnership. These cases continue to receive coordinated outreach, resource navigation, and follow-up to address ongoing needs and help ensure safety and stability.

### **Programs & Events Summary**

Due to recent staff schedule changes, two regularly scheduled Bingo programs per month will be replaced with Bunco.

### **Social Day Program**

Please refer to the attached reports from Sally Bourke for additional details.

### **Upcoming Program Highlights**

- See Attached.

### **Grants & Funding**

The COA applied for \$20,000 through the ARAW of New Bedford grant program and was notified on March 6, 2026 that we were awarded \$15,000.

### **COA Kitchen Renovations**

The COA is currently working with the Town's Facilities Director on the kitchen renovation project. Construction is anticipated to begin in April.

### **8.) Social Day Coordinators Report:**

#### **Activities:**

- **Daily Seated Exercise/ Weekly Chair Zumba, Bingo/Jingo, Trivia, Current Events, Charades, Reminiscence, Men's Group, Craft Corner, Puzzle Group, Horse Race Game, Baking Group, Walking Group, Frisbee Toss, Left, Right, Center Game, Adult Coloring Pages, Penny Ante, Bunco, Shut the Box, Seated Basketball, Words in a Word, Scrabble Group, Movie Monday, "You Be the Judge," "What would you Do?"**

#### **Entertainment this month:**

- **2/3/26- Entertainment W/ Rick F.**
- **2/10/26- Entertainment W/ Pam T.**
- **2/12/26-Entertainment Barry & Judy D.**
- **2/17/26-Entertainment W/ Kevin M.**

- 2/24/26- Entertainment W/Charlotte S.- Canceled due to Weather

Notes: 2/16/26- Center Closed to observe President's Day

2/23 -2/27- Center Closed- Snow Days

Upcoming Events: - In March:

☘ St. Patrick's Day Celebration ☘

📅 March 17, 2026

☘ **Breakfast:**

The Participants will Enjoy homemade Irish Soda Bread to start the morning.

☘ **Lunch:**

Corned Beef and Swiss Cheese on fresh Sourdough Bread  
Served with Coleslaw and Potato Chips

☘ **Special Treat:**

The participants will enjoy Shamrock Shakes while enjoying live Irish songs by Gary F. 🎸

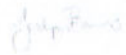
*\*Total Units Serviced for the month of February 146 with a client average of 10*

9.) **Other Business:** None

10.) **Next Meeting:** Tuesday April 14, 2026 at 9:00am

11.) **Roll Call & Adjournment:** Michael H. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40am, All members agreed to adjourn, Vote passes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jocelyn Bowers  
Administrative Assistant - Fairhaven COA