



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 June 9, 2026

Present: Martha Reed, Terry Pereira, Joyce Veilleux, Carol Burt, Nancy Santoro, Susan Oiestad, Michael Hevey & Steven Silvia

Absent: Joan Mello (No longer on the board)

The meeting was legally posted on Thursday June 4, 2026

- 1) **The meeting was called to order by Martha Reed at 9:02am**
- 2) **Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. Susan O. made the motion to approve the Minutes of the May 12, 2026 Meeting, Carol Burt seconded. Vote passes.
- 3) **Financial Report:** On budget. Had to shift some funds from Salary to cover other operating expenses. Carpet cleaning and floor waxing will be happening this month.
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a. **Kitchen Renovation Update:** Found a contractor to do the kitchen. Cabinets will be in shortly from Koopman. Second week of July we should be under construction. We will understand a better lead time once we hear back from Koopman. Meals on Wheels will relocate, congregate lunch will be on pause, and social day lunches will be coordinated.
 - b. **Upcoming Events-Summer Programming:** Still working on the summer events.
 - c. **New Van:** Coming in July
 - d. **Memorial Day Parade:** No parade, ceremony was held at the COA, over 200 people. Our sound system brought to our attention that it is inefficient. We have the hopes to correct it,
 - e. **Memorial Day Cookout:** 80 in attendance.
- 6.) **New Business**
 - a. **Fourth of July Parade:** The van will be in the parade.
 - b. **FY27 MCOA Field Demonstration Grant Submittal:** Martha applied for 3 grants that are listed below.
 - i. **Supportive Social Day Scholarships:** See 7.) Directors Report
 - ii. **Outreach Staff:** See 7.) Directors Report
 - iii. **Senior Center Modernization:** See the attachments following this section. If the COA obtains the grant, the COA will be able to replace, audio equipment, seating, updating the COA logo, secondary touchscreen and furniture. Repainting of the center will also be done as well as possible carpeting. On a side note, in July the kitchen will be replaced, ceiling tiles, round tables and chairs will also be replaced as a part of the approval from Capital.

**7.) Directors Report-
Senior Center/Program Utilization:**

	April 2026	Year to Date Total
Events	361	1,218
Unduplicated Persons	699	1,229
Units of Service	2,509	8,413
S.H.I.N.E. Appts	162 (116 unduplicated)	781 (354 unduplicated)
Daily Utilization Rate	92,96	75.91

Transportation Utilization

During the month of April, 48 older adults utilized our transportation program, receiving a total of 164 rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, and community programs.

Volunteer Contributions

In April, 24 volunteers contributed more than 500 hours of service, representing an estimated in-kind value of approximately \$19,000. Their continued dedication plays a vital role in supporting the Council on Aging's programs, services, and outreach efforts throughout the community.

Program Services Summary

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

In April, staff assisted 14 households with SNAP applications, screenings, recertifications, and related paperwork. An additional 55 households received grocery assistance through the monthly Greater Boston Food Bank program, helping to improve food security for older adults in the community.

Housing Stability Services

In April, staff assisted six households with housing-related needs, including eviction prevention, housing applications, and referrals to appropriate resources and support services.

Fairhaven Community Outreach Partnership

In April, two active outreach cases continued to receive support through resource navigation, service coordination, and ongoing follow-up to help promote safety, stability, and well-being.

Social Day Program

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

Grants & Funding

The COA submitted three applications through the Massachusetts Councils on Aging Service Incentive Grant (SIG) Field Demonstration Project program. The COA applied for \$11,326 under the Outreach category to support a part-time case manager position, \$7,400 for Supportive Social Day respite scholarships to provide caregiver relief, and \$14,962 under the Senior Center

Modernization category to enhance the center's facilities and visitor experience. Award announcements are expected by July 15th.

At the request of the Town Administrator, department heads are reviewing the Massachusetts Community Compact Best Practices to identify initiatives that may benefit their departments. Based on this review, the Council on Aging is exploring the feasibility of pursuing designation as an Age and Dementia Friendly Community. This is a multi-year process, and we are currently evaluating whether the necessary resources, partnerships, and community commitment exist to support such an effort. If determined to be feasible, the initiative could help guide future improvements in accessibility, services, and community support for older adults and individuals living with dementia.

COA Kitchen Renovations

A contractor has been secured for the Council on Aging kitchen renovation project, and the new cabinets and countertops were ordered last week. Construction is expected to begin in mid-July. Once the kitchen renovations are complete, the center will move forward with replacing ceiling tiles throughout the facility and purchasing new tables and chairs. These additional improvements are funded through the FY27 Capital Improvement Plan, which was approved by voters at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

8.) Social Day Coordinators Report:

Activities:

- Daily Seated Exercise/ Weekly Chair Zumba, Bingo/Jingo, Trivia, Current Events, Charades, Reminisce, 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," Weekly Virtual Field Trips

Entertainment this month:

- 5/5/26- Entertainment W/ Dave Valerio
- 5/12/26- Entertainment W/ Joe M.
- 5/19/26-Entertainment W/Gary F.
- 5/28/26-Entertainment - W/Tony & Pat

Every Thursday, participants enjoy **Chair Zumba with Audra**, a fun and engaging exercise program that promotes movement, fitness, and social interaction.

Notes:

The C.O.A. was closed on Monday, May 25, 2026, in observance of Memorial Day.

Upcoming Events / Highlights:

May Celebrations: The Social Day Program celebrated Mother's Day with raffle gifts, flowers, and delicious cupcakes for dessert. Participants enjoyed a festive and memorable day honoring mothers.

**Total Units Serviced for the month of May 229 with a client average of 11*

9.) Other Business: None

10.) Next Meeting: July 14, 2026 at 9:00am

11.) Roll Call & Adjournment: Nancy S. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 am. Susan O. Seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jocelyn Bowers
Administrative Assistant - Fairhaven COA