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Town of Fairhaven
Council on Aging

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Fairhaven Council on Aging • Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2026

Present: Martha Reed, Joyce Veilleux, Carol Burt, Nancy Santoro, Susan Oiestad, Michael Hevey & Steven Silvia
Absent: Joan Mello & Terry Pereira (No longer on the board)

The meeting was legally posted on Thursday October 8, 2026

1) **The meeting was called to order by** Martha Reed at 9:01am
2) **Meeting Minutes:**
    a. Carol B. made the motion to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2026 Meeting, Joyce V. seconded. Vote passes.
3) **Financial Report:** Nothing of concern at this time.
4) **Old Business**
    a. **FY27 MCOA Field Demonstration Grants:** One grant was for an Outreach Worker. The COA has hired Beverly Bisch, former Director of the Westport Council on Aging. She was officially working as of last week. The Modernization Grant has been supporting the payment of all the upgrades that have recently happening within the building. The Council on Aging would like to thank the Facilities Manager of the Town, Kevin, for all of his hard work. He has been painting the walls on the weekends. He will also soon be replacing the ceiling tiles that were a part of a capital project. The roof on the entire building will be replaced starting the 19th. It is a capital project that was approved a few years back as well.
    b. **Veteran's Day Luncheon:** November 10, 2026 at 11:30am. Veterans, Spouses of Veteran's and their family are invited.
    c. **Thanksgiving Dinner:** On Thanksgiving Day at 11:30am – On the Go is the Caterer.
    d. **Fall & Winter Programming:** Offering multiple crafting classes throughout the fall and winter. Will also be offering Cognitive Therapy Stimulation in the Winter, more information to come soon.

6.) **New Business**
    a. **New Elder Outreach Worker** – Mentioned above in 4A
    b. **Fy 27 SNAP Outreach Contract:** Martha Reed just signed the contract last week. The SNAP Outreach Contract helps support the work that is done at the COA in connection with SNAP benefits.
    c. **Cultural Council Grant Support Letters:** The Council on Aging has written several support letters for musicians as well as a dance group.

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

	June 2026	Year to Date Total
Events	350	1,908
Unduplicated Persons	579	1,459
Units of Service	2,320	13,174
S.H.I.N.E. Appts	147 (103 unduplicated)	1,085 (456 unduplicated)
Daily Utilization Rate	105.5	83.33

	July 2026	Year to Date Total
Events	393	2,301
Unduplicated Persons	591	1,587
Units of Service	2,368	15,542
S.H.I.N.E. Appts	121 (88 unduplicated)	1,206 (505 unduplicated)
Daily Utilization Rate	91.08	84.42

Transportation Utilization
During the months of June and July, the Fairhaven Council on Aging continued to provide essential transportation services to older adults in the community. In June, 52 individuals utilized the transportation program, receiving a total of 168 rides. In July, 43 individuals utilized the program, receiving a total of 162 rides. Combined, the COA provided 330 rides during the two-month period, helping older adults access medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies, and community programs.

Volunteer Contributions
Our volunteers continue to be an important part of everything we do at the Fairhaven Council on Aging. In June, 28 volunteers gave more than 500 hours of their time, valued at $18,890. In July, 31 volunteers contributed more than 530 hours, valued at approximately $20,000. Together, that's more than 1,030 volunteer hours valued at nearly $38,900 in just two months. We are incredibly grateful for the time and energy our volunteers give to support our programs and the older adults in our community.

Program Services Summary

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)& Emergency Food/Gift Cards:
In June, staff assisted 5 households with SNAP applications, screenings, recertification's, and related paperwork. In July, staff assisted 10 households with SNAP services. In addition, 55 households received grocery assistance through the monthly Greater Boston Food Bank distribution program in each month, helping local older adults and households with ongoing food needs.

Housing Stability Services
In June, staff assisted 4 households with housing-related needs, and in July, that number increased to 6 households. Assistance included housing applications, eviction prevention, ongoing housing case management, and referrals to community resources.

Fairhaven Community Outreach Partnership
In June, no new outreach cases were received. In July, staff began working with one new household through the outreach program. Staff continues to work closely with our contact at the Fairhaven Police Department to address referrals, coordinate services, and provide support to individuals with identified needs.

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

Grants & Funding
During June and July, staff began working on the projects funded through the recently awarded MCOA Service Incentive Grant (SIG) Field Demonstration Project. This included moving forward with the Senior Center Modernization Grant ($14,962) and Outreach Grant ($11,326), which will support improvements to the center and expanded outreach and case management services. No additional grant funding was awarded or received during this reporting period.

COA Kitchen Renovations
The Council on Aging kitchen renovation has been completed, and we officially returned to business as usual on September 1st. The new kitchen is fully operational, and regular programming and meal services have resumed. We are now working on the procurement of new tables, chairs, and ceiling tiles to complete the remaining updates to the center.

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:

9/1 Pam Teitz- "The Singing Nurse"
9/8 Gary Farias
9/15 Joe Mac
9/17 Rebecca Pink
9/24 Tony & Pat
9/29 Dave Valerio
9/25 Musical Bingo w/Eddie Freitas

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

Notes: Labor Day Holiday 9/7/26- **Center Closed**

Upcoming Events / Highlight for October- Halloween Party 10/22/26- Costume Contest, Raffle Prizes and Entertainment W/ Tony & Pat

September Celebrations: 9/9/26-Celebrating Grandparents- with "GRAND word games, enjoying Special Treats and Reminiscing about spending time with your grandparents.

Total Units Serviced for the month of September 273 with a client average of 13

9.) Other Business: Bike Path Blue Light Project- Livable Streets Community reached out to the Council on Aging to write a support letter for a Blue Light Project on the bike path. The Blue Light Project is used for safety purposes in case of an emergency.

Nancy S. made the motion to accept the support letter for the Blue Light Project, Susan O. seconded, vote passes.

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

11.) Roll Call & Adjournment: Nancy S. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20am. Mike H. Seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jocelyn Bowers

Jocelyn Bowers
Administrative Assistant - Fairhaven COA