FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2026

Present: Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello, Pam Kuechler, Andrew Saunders and Richard F. Trapilo

Not Present: Keith R. Hickey

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCVD 2026 OCT 27 AM10:03

Mr. Romano opened the Select Board meeting at 6:00pm

APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT REQUESTS

Mr. Romano gave an overview of the process for the evening and advised each applicant they would be asked questions pertaining to the board, committee or commission they applied to and all applicants would be asked the same last question about conflicts.

ART CURATOR: Mark Badwey

Mark Badwey addressed the Board about his application and the role of Art Curator.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Mark Badwey as Art Curator for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

BELL COMMITTEE: Doug Brady, Nils Isaksen, Helena Oliveira

Doug Brady addressed the Board about his application and asked for clarification on the number of committees, working groups not listed in Article 27 or 28 and a legal interpretation of the new bylaws (***Attachment A***).

Discussion ensued regarding the legal interpretation of the new bylaw regarding Service by an Appointed Official, c. 56 § 14. The Board had differing interpretations and discussion included serving on "no more than two" being the maximum as written in the bylaw, whether compliance with the Open Meeting Law was a deciding factor and whether the Board could consider an exception due to the bylaw provision "unless otherwise authorized by a specific vote of the appointing authority."

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Doug Brady to the Bell Committee for a 1-year term. Mr. Trapilo seconded. The motion failed (2-3-0) Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Romano and Ms. Mello opposed.

Nils Isaksen was not in attendance to address the Board

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Nils Isaksen to the Bell Committee for a 1-year term. Mr. Trapilo seconded. The motion failed (2-3-0) Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Romano and Ms. Mello opposed.

Helena Oliveira addressed the Board about her application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Helena Oliveira to the Bell Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

BELONGING COMMITTEE: Alliea Groupp, Laura Barillaro, Rachel Medeiros, Suzanne Bellanger

The applicants were not present to address the Board. Mr. Romano advocated for applicants Alliea Groupp, Laura Barillaro and Suzanne Bellanger as the Belonging Committee's liaison. Mr. Romano advised the Board that Rachel Medeiros had recently moved out of Fairhaven and he would not be in support of her application as a non-resident. Brief discussion ensued about appointments of non-residents to the Board of Assessors and Mr. Romano reminded the Board that Town Counsel clarified that the Board of Assessors is statutory and members appointed do not have a residency requirement.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Alliea Groupp to the Belonging Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Laura Barillro to the Belonging Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

No motion was made for Rachel Medeiros

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Suzanne Bellanger to the Belonging Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Barbara Acksen, Ronnie Medina

Barbara Acksen addressed the Board about her application. Discussion ensued regarding the new bylaw Service by Elected Officials c. 56 § 13 (***Attachment A***). Discussion included an appointment as a liaison by the Board of Health as stated in part in the bylaw, the role of the Cable Advisory Committee, regulatory requirements for television licensure, clarification on interviewing attorneys, whether there is an operational statement of this committee, negotiations with Comcast and the importance of the knowledge of members of this committee.

Mr. Romano addressed the Board about the opportunity to take a look across the boards and committees that do not have applicants or quorums and assess the charge of that board or committee and whether the work can be done by the Select Board or another board. Ms. Mello read from the state's webpage about Cable Advisory Committees (***Attachment B***).

No motion was made for Barbara Acksen

The Board reviewed the application from Ronnie Medina, Mr. Saunders spoke to past interactions with Mr. Medina while on the Conservation Commission, Mr. Medina's love for the Town of Fairhaven and that notwithstanding the application and his absence tonight, he would motion to appoint Mr. Medina. Mr. Romano spoke in support of Mr. Medina as a former member of the Cable Advisory Committee.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Ronnie Medina to the Cable Advisory Committee for a 1-year term. Mr. Trapilo seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY:
Reappointment: Cara Viveiros;
New Request: Constance Hilton, Amanda Wamboldt, Joseph Russell

Ms. Viveiros, her mother and aunt addressed the Board about Ms. Viveiros' application to for the Commission on Disability and participation on the Commission. Liaison to the Commission on Disability, Ms. Mello, spoke in support of Ms. Viveiros' application. The Board thanked Ms. Viveiros for her work on the Commission.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Cara Viveiros to the Commission on Disability for a 3-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Romano advised the other applicants that their applications could be held for a future vacancy.

The Board recessed from 7:15-7:21p

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: Jeffrey Lucas, Ann Richard

Mr. Lucas addressed the Board about his application and interest in the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Jeffrey Lucas to the Community Preservation Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Ms. Richard addressed the Board about her application and interest in the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Ann Richard to the Community Preservation Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Wendy Drumm, Karyn Ferreira

Wendy Drumm addressed the Board about her application and the role on the Conservation Commission and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Wendy Drumm to the Conservation Commission for a 3-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Karyn Ferreira was not present and made attempts to connect via Zoom to address the Board.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to table Karyn Ferreira's application. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

COUNCIL ON AGING:
Reappointment: Michael Hevey;
New Request: Alyson Haskell
Mr. Hevey and Ms. Haskell were not present to address the Board.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to table the applications. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Ms. Hart will reach out to the applicants regarding rescheduling.

CULTURAL COUNCIL: Beth Ann Gallagher, John Walker, Jennifer Frasier
Beth Ann Gallagher addressed the Board about her application and the role of the Cultural Council and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Beth Ann Gallagher to the Cultural Council for a 3-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

John Walker addressed the Board about his application and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint John Walker to the Cultural Council for a 3-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Jennifer Frasier was not present to address the Board about her application. Ms. Gallagher, Chair of the Cultural Council, addressed the Board in support of Ms. Frasier's application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Jennifer Frasier to the Cultural Council for a 3-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Cathy Melanson, Karyn Ferreira, John Hinds
Cathy Melanson addressed the Board about her application and answered the Board's questions. Discussion on Economic Development Committee work and which committees Ms. Melanson would choose where she is currently serving on more than two.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Cathy Melanson to the Economic Development Committee for a 1-year term, pending stepping down from Capital Planning and Atlas Tack Working Group. Mr. Trapilo seconded.

Motion: Mr. Saunders made an alternate motion to appoint Cathy Melanson to the Economic Development Committee for a 1-year term. Mr. Trapilo rescinded his earlier second and seconded Mr. Saunders motion.

On the first motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Cathy Melanson to the Economic Development Committee for a 1-year term, pending stepping down from Capital Planning and the Atlas Tack Working Group. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed (3-2-0) Mr. Saunders and Mr. Trapilo opposed.

Ms. Ferreira was not present and was unable to unmute to address the Board about her application. Ms. Melanson, Chair of EDC, spoke in support of Ms. Ferreira's application to the EDC.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Karyn Ferreira to the Economic Development Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Hinds was not present to address the Board about his application. Ms. Melanson, Chair of EDC, spoke in support of Mr. Hinds' application to the EDC.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint John Hinds to the Economic Development Committee for a 1-year term. Mr. Trapilo seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

HISTORICAL COMMISSION:
Reappointment: Full Member: Beth Luey, Eleanor Chew, Brian Messier; Associate Member: Nils Isaksen
New Request: Allysia Berthelette
Beth Luey addressed the Board about her application, work on the Commission and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Beth Luey as a Full Member of the Historical Commission for a 3-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Eleanor Chew addressed the Board about her application, work on the Commission and answered the Board's questions. Ms. Chew indicated which she preferred and which she would step down from as she is currently serving on more than two boards.

Motion: Mr. Romano motioned to appoint Eleanor Chew as a Full Member of the Historical Commission for a 3-year term, pending her resignation from the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed (3-2-0) Mr. Saunders and Mr. Trapilo opposed.

Brian Messier addressed the Board about his application and shared his personal opinion on the overall process tonight and the new bylaw. Mr. Messier answered the Board's questions about his application to become a Full Member of the Historical Commission where he was serving as an Associate Member.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Brian Messier as a Full Member of the Historical Commission for a 3-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Nils Isaksen was not present to address the Board about his application to be an Associate Member of the Historical Commission. Ms. Mello, liaison to the Historical Commission, spoke in support of Mr. Isaksen's application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Nils Isaksen as an Associate Member of the Historical Commission for a 3-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Allysia Berthelette was not present to address the Board about her application. Mr. Romano will reach out to Ms. Berthelette.

LIVABLE STREETS:
Reappointment: Tim Garcia, Roger Sicotte
New Request: Erin Carr, Ted Robinson

Tim Garcia addressed the Board about his application and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Tim Garcia to the Livable Streets Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Roger Sicotte addressed the Board via Zoom about his application and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Roger Sicotte to the Livable Streets Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Mr. Saunders recused himself

Erin Carr addressed the Board about her application and answered the Board's questions about her interest and residency. Brief discussion ensued about the change to the handbook regarding residency, Mr. Romano advised the Board that a future agenda item can be considered to discuss changing the residency requirement.

Motion: Mr. Trapillo motioned to appoint Eric Carr to the Livable Streets Committee for a 1-year term. No second. The motion failed.

Ted Robinson was not present to address the Board about his application.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to table Ted Robinson's application to the Livable Streets Committee. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE:
Reappointment: Michael McNamara, Robert Pink Jr., David Darmofal, Andrew Jones; New Request: Morgan Dawicki

Michael McNamara, Robert Pink Jr., David Darmofal and Andrew Jones were not present to address the Board. Mr. Saunders, liaison to the Marine Resources Committee, spoke in support of the four applicants for reappointment.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Michael McNamara, Robert Pink Jr., David Darmofal and Andrew Jones to the Marine Resources Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Morgan Dawicki addressed the Board about his application and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Morgan Dawicki to the Marine Resources Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Board recessed from 9:03-9:09p

COUNCIL ON AGING: Reappointment: Michael Hevey

Council on Aging Director and liaison to the COA Board Martha Reed addressed the Board via Zoom in support of Michael Hevey's application for reappointment to the Council on Aging Board.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Michael Hevey to the Council on Aging Board for a 3-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

MILLICENT LIBRARY TRUSTEE: Kathryn Powers

Kathryn Powers was not present to address the Board about her application. Ms. Kuechler, former Trustee, spoke in support of Ms. Powers application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Kathryn Powers to the Millicent Library Board of Trustees for a 4-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

ROGERS REUSE COMMITTEE:
Reappointment: Susan Loo, Doug Brady, Nils Isaksen, Beverly Rasmussen
New Request: Lucas Lavallee

Doug Brady addressed the Board about his application and work on the committee and answered the Board's questions. He was asked what boards he preferred as he currently serves on more than two.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Doug Brady to the Rogers Reuse Committee for a 1-year term without requesting him to resign from other boards. Mr. Trapilo seconded. The motion failed (2-3-0) Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Romano and Ms. Mello opposed.

Nils Isaksen was not present to address the Board about his application.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Nils Isaksen to the Rogers Reuse Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Susan Loo addressed the Board about her application and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Susan Loo to the Rogers Reuse Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Beverly Rasmussen addressed the Board about her application and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Beverly Rasmussen to the Rogers Reuse Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Lucas Lavallee was not present to address the Board about his application.

Motion: Ms. Mello motioned to table Lucas Lavallee's application to the Rogers Reuse Committee. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE: Ann Richard, Tim Garcia, Melanie Jansky, Christin Ritz, Wendy Drumm

Mr. Romano, liaison to the Sustainability Committee, spoke in support of the applicants.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Ann Richard, Tim Garcia, Melanie Jansky, Christin Ritz and Wendy Drumm to the Sustainability Committee for a 1-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:
Reappointment: Associate Member: Cathy Melanson;
New Request: Johnny Pompa

Cathy Melanson and Johnny Pompa each addressed the Board individually about their applications and answered the Board's questions.

Motion: Mr. Trapilo motioned to appoint Cathy Melanson to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Associate Member. Mr. Saunders seconded.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Romano asked to amend the motion to be, appoint Cathy Melanson to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3-year term as an Associate Member pending she step down from the Special Bylaw Review Committee. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Clarification on the motions on the floor, Mr. Trapilo accepted the amendment to his motion.

Motion: Mr. Trapilo accepted the amended motion to appoint Cathy Melanson to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3-year term as an Associate Member pending she step down from the Special Bylaw Review Committee. Mr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed (4-1-0) Ms. Mello opposed.

The Board thanked Mr. Pompa and encouraged him to check for opportunities to use his experience.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Legal RFP interviews will be on **Thursday, October 15, 2026** at 2:00PM and the next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on **Monday, October 26, 2026** at 6:30pm. Early voting starts Saturday, October 17, 2026.

The Select Board adjourned at 9:54pm

ATTACHMENTS

A. Annual Town Meeting Articles 27 and 28
B. Mass.gov information on Cable Advisory Committees

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Select Board Clerk (ah)

Accepted on October 26, 2026

Attachment A

ARTICLE 27 CITIZENS PETITION – Amend Bylaws c. 56-13

To see if Town Meeting will vote to amend Division 1: Bylaws, Part 1: Administration, Chapter 56 by adding "Subsection 56-13 Service by Elected Officials" An elected official shall serve only on the board or body to which they have been duly elected. Not withstanding the foregoing, an elected official may serve on additional boards, committees or commissions solely in the capacity of a liaison, provided such an appointment is made by the elected officials appointing or governing board. An elected official serving as a liaison shall not be considered a voting member of such board, committee or commission unless otherwise expressly authorized by law or bylaw. An elected official appointed or elected pursuant to this section shall continue to serve in such capacity until the earlier of their next reappointment or re-election, unless sooner removed in accordance with applicable law or bylaw.

ARTICLE 28 CITIZENS PETITION – Amend Bylaws c. 56-14

To see if Town Meeting will vote to amend Division 1: Bylaws, Part 1: Administration, Chapter 56 by adding "Subsection 56-14 Service by Appointed Officials" An individual who is not an elected official may seek appointment to and serve on no more than two (2) boards, committees or commissions concurrently, unless otherwise authorized by a specific vote of the appointing authority. Any individual appointed pursuant to this section shall remain in their appointed capacity until the earlier of their next reappointment or re-election, unless sooner removed in accordance with applicable law or bylaw.

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/cable-advisory-committees

Attachment B

Cable Advisory Committees

A Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), appointed by the municipal issuing authority, advises the municipality on the cable franchising process.

Definition of Cable Advisory Committee

Under Massachusetts regulations, an Issuing Authority (IA), such as the mayor of a city or the board of selectmen of a town, may appoint a Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) to advise the IA throughout the licensing process. In many instances, the CAC remains active throughout the term of the license. Currently, there are over 280 CACs in the Commonwealth. The composition and number of members of the CAC is determined by the IA.

The IA may, at its discretion, define the role and responsibilities of the CAC to the extent permitted under G.L. c. 166A. While an IA may delegate to a CAC the authority to negotiate a license agreement, an IA may not delegate authority to execute such an agreement.

CACs are considered "governmental bodies" within the purview of the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c. 268A.

Recognizing that CACs fulfill an important and valuable link between the IA, the licensee, and the residents of the community, the Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") seeks to build positive professional relationships with the CACs. The Department's staff works closely with local committees to educate them on the licensing process and improve information-sharing.

The Department's program includes an informational presentation available to communities. Please contact the Department to schedule a presentation or to discuss any cable licensing matter.

Responsibilities of a Cable Advisory Committees

CAC responsibilities vary according to the status of the license and the objectives of the IA. The following list includes some typical responsibilities assigned to CACs in the Commonwealth:

- Inform and educate the public about cable television service;
- Assess the cable needs of the community and recommend policy changes;
- Conduct regular meetings with cable company representatives to discuss matters of mutual interest;
- Report to the IA on company compliance with the license;
- Supervise the cable operator's response to complaints;
- Respond to residents' questions regarding the cable television system; and
- Keep abreast of community programming issues.