



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2026 APR 8 AM 9:42

Present: Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Natalie A. Mello, Keith Silvia, Andrew Saunders and Keith R. Hickey

Also Present: Planning Board: Jessica Fidalgo, Sharon Simmons, Patrick Carr, Ruy daSilva, Kevin Grant, and Jeffrey Lucas. **Not Present:** Planning Board: Miles Grant and Sean Powers

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

Ms. Fidalgo opened the Planning Board meeting at 6:02pm and confirmed a quorum was present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Planning Board joint with the Select Board

Motion: Ms. Simmons motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) To comply with, or act under the authority of, G.L. c. 30A, s. 22, and G.L. c. 4, s. 7(26), to review the minutes of Executive Sessions of the Planning Board dated 6/14/2022, 12/13/2022, 2/19/2025, 9/9/2025, 10/14/2025, 10/28/2025, 11/18/2025 and 12/16/2025 in response to a request for release and discuss whether to waive attorney-client privilege AND not to return to open session. Mr. Grant seconded. Roll Call Vote. Ms. Fidalgo, Ms. Simmons, Mr. daSilva, Mr. Carr, Mr. Grant and Mr. Lewis all in favor. The motion passed unanimously (6-0-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION – with the Planning Board

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) To comply with, or act under the authority of, G.L. c. 30A, s. 22, and G.L. c. 4, s. 7(26), to review the minutes of Executive Sessions of the Planning Board dated 6/14/2022, 12/13/2022, 2/19/2025, 9/9/2025, 10/14/2025, 10/28/2025, 11/18/2025 and 12/16/2025 in response to a request for release and discuss whether to waive attorney-client privilege AND to return to open session. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Romano and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Planning Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:04pm

The Select Board adjourned to Executive Session from 6:04pm to 6:58pm

PUBLIC HEARING 6:30PM

Modify the Town of Fairhaven Personnel Policy per Chapter 61 § 5-B of the Town Bylaws

The purpose of this hearing is to align Non-Union Employee Vacation and Personal Days Benefit (§ 27.0 Vacation; § 29.0 Personal Days) to be consistent with the Clerical Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:58pm and Mr. Murphy read the notice.

Mr. Hickey addressed the Board regarding the changes requested to sections 27.0 Vacation and 29.0 Personal Days of the Town of Fairhaven's Personnel Policy and as shown in the mark-ups included in their packet (***Attachment A***). The Board reviewed the proposed changes at a prior meeting and had no questions.

Public Comment: No public comments

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:01pm

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve amendments to the Town of Fairhaven Personnel Policy as presented. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Erin Carr of Main Street addressed the Board; she thanked the Board, Town Administrator and/or Public Works for cleaning the bike path of snow. She added how impactful it is for those who use it. Ms. Carr encouraged the Board to continue having this happen and if needed can come in the future to discuss community options to pay for clean-up of the bike path and track.

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

Childcare Service at the Recreation Center for Town Meeting, Saturday, May 2, 2026

Recreation Center Director Bernadette Barreira addressed the Board and reviewed the services the Recreation Center will offer the day of Town Meeting on May 2, 2026 (*Attachment B*). The Board thanked Ms. Barreira for the opportunity and brief discussion ensued about parents providing lunch and snacks for their child, registration limited to Town Meeting members, not staff and the age range is five to twelve years old (5-12).

Event and Parking Fee Waiver Request: 13TH Annual West Island 5K on Sunday, April 26, 2026

The Board reviewed the event and parking fee waiver request for the 13th Annual West Island 5K on Sunday, April 26, 2026.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the West Island 5k Run/Walk, contingent upon police, fire and emergency management coordination, and the no-fee use of Hoppy's Landing for parking during the West Island 5k Run/Walk on April 26, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Special One-Day Beer and Wine License, Buzzards Bay Coalition, Saturday, June 20, 2026, 7:00-11:00am

The Board reviewed the application for a Special One-Day Beer and Wine License from the Buzzards Bay Coalition for the 33rd Annual Buzzards Bay Swim at Fort Phoenix.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the Special One-Day Beer and Wine License on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 7:00-11:00am for the Buzzards Bay Coalition's 33rd Annual Buzzards Bay Swim at Fort Phoenix. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Appointment Request: Belonging Committee: Suzanne Bellanger

The Board reviewed Ms. Bellanger's application, Mr. Romano advised the Board she had reached out to him about the opportunity and was unable to attend tonight.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Suzanne Bellanger to the Belonging Committee for a term through May, 2026. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed (4-0-1) Mr. Romano abstained.

Appointment Request: Associate Zoning Board of Appeals: Cathy Melanson

Cathy Melanson addressed the Board about her application, volunteer work, accomplishments on other boards and in the community. Brief discussion ensued and the Board asked clarifying questions to confirm, if appointed, that Ms. Melanson would act in the best interests of the citizens when exercising the deliberative powers of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), what Ms. Melanson's role volunteering in the Planning Office entails. Mr. Hickey advised the Board that he limited it to work that could be done outside of Town Hall to answer questions as needed. Ms. Melanson said she meets with the Planning Board chair to prepare meeting materials but does not attend the meetings or tell the Planning Board what to do. Mr. Romano expressed concerns about additional board work and the need for diverse volunteers.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Cathy Melanson as an Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term through May, 2026. Mr. Silvia seconded. The motion passed (3-2-0) Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano opposed.

Appointment Request: Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee: Bob Espindola

Mr. Espindola addressed the Board via zoom. Mr. Silvia expressed concerns about correspondence Ms. Espindola submitted ahead of a January meeting requesting the Select Board not appoint Ms. Melanson or Mr. Carr due to an ongoing investigation and that in Mr. Silvia's opinion, Mr. Espindola's actions should be part of the investigation. Brief discussion ensued regarding why the investigation concern would not apply to Ms. Melanson or Mr. Carr.

Mr. Carr asked to address the Board and no public comments were allowed by the Chair.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Bob Espindola to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hickey reviewed his report and congratulated Sergeant Michael Bouvier who retired after thirty years of distinguished service to the Town (*Attachment C*). The Board also thanked Sgt. Bouvier and congratulated him on his retirement; Mr. Murphy added recognition for Sgt. Bouvier's work with the developmentally disabled.

There will be two ribbon cuttings with the Economic Development Committee on Friday, February 13, 2026; 1; 11:00am at Fairhaven Tattoo & Gallery and at 1:00pm at the Sail House Tavern.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders had no updates or meeting updates to report.

Ms. Mello reported:

- The Historical Commission met and discussed that the Historical Society will host a talk with author Charles Slack at 6:30pm on April 24, 2021 at Town Hall.
- There is a new sign being put up at the Delano Cemetery on Sconticut Neck Road by Public Works. The Board asked for notice of any installation or rededication date.

Mr. Murphy had no updates or meeting updates to report.

Mr. Romano reported:

- The Belonging Committee met, they reviewed their yearly agenda and member capacity to attend or support events.
- He will be out of town and miss the ribbon cuttings.
- He thanked Ms. Carr for her comments on the bike path snow removal and added that there are bus stops along Huttleston Avenue where people wait in the street due to the snow. The suggestion was made to contact SRTA (Southeastern Regional Transit Authority) because Huttleston Avenue is a state road.
- Interviews start tomorrow for the Treasurer/Collector position.

Mr. Silvia reported:

- No meetings to report on
- He has seen the crossing guard shoveling snow at the corners she is stationed at when the plow has left snow and also Facilities Manager Kevin Fournier needing help at Town Hall especially on the weekend with snow removal. Mr. Hickey will speak with Mr. Fournier.

CORRESPONDENCE (Attachment D)

1. Email: Wayne Hayward; Agenda item comment
2. Email: Anne Morton Smith; Sidewalk Bylaw
3. Email: Ann Richard; CPC info on Housing projects-FYI
4. Emails: Michelle Costen; Municipal Affordable Housing Trust-Proposal in the Making and Ref: Request for full investigative disclosure, -1/2/26 meeting
5. Petition to Extend the External Investigation through October 19, 2025

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter the Select Board correspondence as listed into the record. Ms. Mello seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next regular Select Board meeting will be on Monday, February 23, 2021 at 6:30pm.

FINAL THOUGHT... "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. Confucius."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Civil Service) AND NOT to return to open session. Ms. Mello seconded. Roll Call Vote. Mr. Saunders, Ms. Mello, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Romano and Mr. Silvia in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:38pm

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Proposed Personnel Policy Changes to § 27.0 Vacation and § 29.09.0 Personal Days
- B. Memo: Bernadette Barreira: Childcare at the Recreation Center for Town Meeting
- C. Town Administrator Report
- D. Correspondence: Email: Wayne Hayward; Agenda item comment; Email: Anne Morton Smith; Sidewalk Bylaw; Email: Ann Richard; CPC info on Housing projects-FYI; Emails: Michelle Costen; Municipal Affordable Housing Trust-Proposal in the Making and Ref: Request for full investigative disclosure, - 1/2/26 meeting and Petition to Extend the External Investigation through October 19, 2025

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

Accepted on March 2, 2026

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS



PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

The policies and procedures outlined herein are subject to change without notice provided that the changes are made in accordance with federal and state laws and town bylaws. The Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts reserves the right to layoff any employee whenever such action becomes necessary by reason of shortage of funds, lack of work, the abolition of a position, a material change in duties or organization or for any other appropriate reasons. These policies are a guide only, and it is not the intent of the Town to grant any employee any contractual commitment, expressed or implied, by its adoption. The employment relationship between the employee and

27.0 Vacation

27-1. *Coverage.* Vacation pay is granted to all regular full-time and regular part-time employees regularly working twenty or more hours per week. Part-time employees shall accrue vacation on a pro-rated basis. Seasonal full-time, temporary full-time, seasonal part-time, and temporary part-time are not eligible for vacation pay. Regular, Part-Time employees who work less than 20 hours per week who were hired prior to the adoption of these policies and are receiving benefits may continue to receive those benefits.27-2. *Vacation Policy.* Vacation pay is granted to all full-time employees for each vacation year (12 months) completed in accordance with the following plan:

Time Employed:	Length of Vacation:
0-6 months	0 days
6 months to year 2	10 days (for the entire 18 months covered)
After 2 nd year	10 days each year
After five years	15 days each year
After ten years	20 days each year
After fifteen years	25 days each year
<u>After twenty years</u>	<u>30 days each year</u>

29.0 Personal Days

29.1. *Policy.* A regular, full-time employee and regular part-time employees regularly working 20 or more hours per week in continuous employment who has completed six (6) months of service, shall be entitled to ~~three-four~~ (3)(4) personal days each fiscal year. Personal days may be taken in one (1) hour increments (~~21-28~~ hours for employees typically working 35 hours a week; ~~24-32~~ hours for employees typically working 40 hours a week). Unused personal time cannot be carried over into the next fiscal year. Employees must give their supervisor 48 hours' notice, when requesting personal time, unless an emergency requires less than 48 hours' notice in which case the employee will provide notice as soon as reasonably possible. Seasonal full-time, temporary full-time, seasonal part-time, and temporary part-time are not eligible for personal days. Regular, Part-Time employees who work less than 20 hours per week who were hired prior to the adoption of these policies and are receiving benefits may continue to receive those benefits.



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN RECREATION DEPARTMENT

227 Huttleston Ave. Fairhaven, MA 02719

Phone 508-993-9269

e-mail bbarreira@fairhaven-ma.gov

www.fairhaven-ma.gov



Attachment B

January 14, 2026

Town Administrator
Fairhaven Select Board
Town of Fairhaven
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Re: Childcare Services for Town Meeting – May 2, 2026

Dear Town Administrator and Members of the Select Board,

On behalf of the Fairhaven Recreation Department, I am pleased to share that the Fairhaven Recreation Center will provide childcare services in support of Town Meeting participation on May 2, 2026.

Childcare will be available one (1) hour prior to the scheduled start of Town Meeting and for thirty (30) minutes after the meeting adjourns.

- **Free childcare** will be offered to **any active Town Meeting Members**.
- Childcare will also be available to **non-voting members** for **\$35.00 per child**.

During childcare hours, Recreation staff will provide a safe, supervised environment featuring structured play, crafts, and organized games.

To help us meet all needs and accommodate each child appropriately, all participants must bring their own lunch and snack.

Registration is required and can be completed online at fairhavenrecreation.activityreg.com or in person at the **Fairhaven Recreation Center during regular business hours**.

We are happy to support the Town in making public participation more accessible for families, and we appreciate the continued partnership between the Recreation Department, the Town Administrator's Office, and the Select Board.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you would like additional details included in the Town Meeting materials or public communications.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Barreira
Director of Recreation
Fairhaven Recreation Department



Town of Fairhaven Report of the Town Administrator February 9, 2026

Financial Updates

-

Project Updates

-

Personnel Update

- Assessor Bruce Cabral started his employment Monday, February 9th.

Miscellaneous Updates

- I was asked to participate in the Fairhaven High School Civics Fair on Thursday, February 12th.
- The Recreation Department will provide childcare services for Town Meeting members on the day of Town Meeting at the Recreation Center. The services will be free for active Town Meeting members and \$35 per child for parents who would like to attend Town Meeting but are not voting members. If interested, registration is or in-person at the Recreation Center during normal business hours.
- I have been invited to speak at the Fairhaven Improvement Association Annual Meeting on April 14th.

Sergeant Michael Bouvier dedicated 30 years of distinguished service to the Town of Fairhaven Police Department, building a career defined by leadership, mentorship, and community-centered policing. As a sergeant, Sergeant Bouvier's supervised and led dozens of both novice and seasoned officers, providing guidance, accountability, and professional development while setting high standards for performance and integrity. He also served as a School Resource Officer, where he fostered strong, positive relationships with youth, educators, and families, becoming a trusted presence within the school community.

Sergeant Bouvier's most significant and lasting achievement was the creation of one of the first community outreach units in the region. What began as an innovative initiative grew over more than a decade into a well-established unit that conducted over 500 follow-up visits related to opioid overdoses, substance use concerns, and mental health crises. Through this work, Sergeant Bouvier built meaningful partnerships with recovery coaches, mental health professionals, and service providers, helping bridge the gap between law enforcement and social services. His career reflects a deep commitment to service, collaboration, and improving the quality of life for the Fairhaven community.

Prior to his committed service to the town of Fairhaven, Sergeant Bouvier served honorably as a marine with States Marine Corps. Sergeant Bouvier also dedicated years of service to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.

Agenda item comment

1 message

Wayne Hayward

Fri, Jan 30, 2026 at 9:06 AM

To: Amy Hart <ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Fairhaven Select Board <selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov>

To the Select Board,

You have a third-party petition on behalf of Dianne Tomassetti on your Feb. 02, 2026 agenda, and I offer these comments.

Some of the citizen-group are themselves being investigated in the Timothy-Hiller-Subdivision-Investigation and are conflicted. The citizen-group complaining of critique of a town official on social media posts, while simultaneously elected officials at the national, state, and local levels are bombarded with cruel accusations daily by the news press and protest sign-holders, will not easily be judged by a hired consultant. I believe, if anything, this is a private civil matter, if the former official feels monetarily damaged. Sitting public officials cannot be constrained by the use of a perpetual gag order concerning the public's business and which seeks to veil individual behavior over the public's benefit. It is unwarranted to try to regulate clear First Amendment rights at a future Fairhaven Select Board meeting. If Diane Tomassetti wishes to communicate to Fairhaven voters of an injustice, those should be her words directly to the voters, not by petition. I don't feel the elected Select Board meeting should air private, personal grievances during a live broadcast again. You unnecessarily expose the taxpayers to further legal challenge. I also feel it is not proper for the town to expend legal funds, voted for the sole task of a Timothy-Hiller-Subdivision-Investigation, for analysis of unrelated private citizen and former Planning Board Chair Dianne Tomassetti's resignation of her seat. Public monies are prohibited for an individual's benefit and only her (regretted)free-will decision is the obvious legal conclusion. Whatever comments made regarding a former Planning Board member, for or against, are irrelevant to the investigation, and Dianne Tomassetti has publicly stated that she was unaware of the Windmill Acres application. The Town of Fairhaven's position should be not to have a position in this unrelated private matter.

Wayne Hayward
48 Gelllette Road

w@yne h@yw@rd

Sidewalk Bylaw

1 message

Anne Morton Smith <anne.morton.smith@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 30, 2026 at 12:29 PM

To: khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Vincent Furtado <vfurtado@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Daniel Dorgan <Daniel.dorgan@fairhavenpolice.org>

Dear Mr. Hickey, members of the Selectboard, Mr. Furtado, and Chief Dorgan,

By now, I don't think there is a single person in town who hasn't noticed that many of our sidewalks remain uncleared. Many of us are deeply concerned about the safety of those who are forced to walk in the streets.

While this past week's storm brought significant snowfall, the problem with sidewalk clearing is not new. It happens after nearly every storm, leaving people who travel by foot—far more residents than we tend to realize—in danger. Parents are terrified, and drivers are anxious about what might happen when visibility is low and pedestrians are in the roadway. I know I am.

I'm not sure when our current bylaw was written, but it seems to have been designed as a lenient, last-resort attempt to encourage compliance. Requiring neighbors to call the police on one another, having officers dispatched to inspect, then involving the BPW to clear the sidewalk, and finally billing the homeowner is not only impractical—it's unworkable at nearly every step.

There is also widespread confusion about what the bylaw actually requires. Does it apply only to paved sidewalks, or must residents with grassy frontage clear a path as well? And does it apply to the large commercial properties on Route 6? It certainly should—just as it should apply to the COA and any other town-owned property along that corridor.

I've lived in places where the rule was far simpler: clear your sidewalk or receive a ticket. That's it. People can complain about their backs or their elderly relatives but the reality is that when you purchase a home or business, you take on responsibility for its upkeep—including clearing the sidewalk, just as you are responsible for managing your trash.

I paid a fine once, many years ago, when I was young and less responsible. That was all it took. Neighbors help neighbors, and families support their elderly relatives—either by showing up or by arranging for help. Many of us already do this. Unfortunately, some of the loudest voices on social media seem uninterested in being part of the solution, which is a sad commentary on where we are as a community.

The fact remains: it is unsafe. And financial consequences are effective motivators.

It's also important to acknowledge that during any snowfall—large or small—our police and DPW staff are already stretched thin. They are enforcing parking bans (which we truly need to enforce consistently, as other towns do) and plowing roads, all while managing their regular workload.

I don't claim to have the perfect solution, but I would suggest considering a bylaw change that implements a straightforward ticketing system, with escalating penalties for continued noncompliance. This could also generate revenue for the town. I can't estimate how much, but ideally it would be enough to hire per-diem inspectors or ticket issuers—perhaps retired or off-duty officers seeking extra hours, or other trained staff.

There are details to work out: How much time should property owners have to comply, and should that window adjust based on snowfall totals? Should there be relief for residents who can demonstrate that a contractor piled excessive snow onto their sidewalk? I don't know the answers. But the routine overflow from plows cannot be an excuse, and we absolutely need MassDOT, through our State Representative, to take responsibility for the large accumulations on state-maintained roads.

I don't believe it's appropriate for me to file a citizen's petition for Town Meeting, given the budget implications of enforcing a ticketing program. However, it is abundantly clear to the community that the current system is not working, and something must change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Morton Smith
Main Street

Re: Sidewalk Bylaw

1 message

Anne Morton Smith <anne.morton.smith@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 9:23 AM

To: khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, Vincent Furtado <vfurtado@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Daniel Dorgan <Daniel.dorgan@fairhavenpolice.org>

Dear All -

Just circling back since I have not received a reply to my initial message regarding snow removal on sidewalks and the extreme danger it presents to our residents. This is a longstanding problem and many residents recognize that the bylaw is nonfunctional as written. Though I appreciate the mention at the end of the Selectboard meeting on Monday evening that there exists a bylaw that requires sidewalk clearing we need much more than that - especially as every resident and business owner is well aware that it is not enforced. Sadly, asking people to do the right thing is ineffectual. This has been proven not just with the most recent snowstorm, but with every snowstorm over at least the past decade, no matter the size.

I might suggest that the department heads could get together to figure out how the bylaw could be revised such that it would actually benefit the residents and keep us safe.

Thank you so much for your consideration and response.

Anne Morton Smith

On Fri, Jan 30, 2026 at 12:29 PM Anne Morton Smith <anne.morton.smith@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Hickey, members of the Selectboard, Mr. Furtado, and Chief Dorgan,

By now, I don't think there is a single person in town who hasn't noticed that many of our sidewalks remain uncleared. Many of us are deeply concerned about the safety of those who are forced to walk in the streets.

While this past week's storm brought significant snowfall, the problem with sidewalk clearing is not new. It happens after nearly every storm, leaving people who travel by foot—far more residents than we tend to realize—in danger. Parents are terrified, and drivers are anxious about what might happen when visibility is low and pedestrians are in the roadway. I know I am.

I'm not sure when our current bylaw was written, but it seems to have been designed as a lenient, last-resort attempt to encourage compliance. Requiring neighbors to call the police on one another, having officers dispatched to inspect, then involving the BPW to clear the sidewalk, and finally billing the homeowner is not only impractical—it's unworkable at nearly every step.

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I've lived in places where the rule was far simpler: clear your sidewalk or receive a ticket. That's it. People can complain about their backs or their elderly relatives but the reality is that when you purchase a home or business, you take on responsibility for its upkeep—including clearing the sidewalk, just as you are responsible for managing your trash.

I paid a fine once, many years ago, when I was young and less responsible. That was all it took. Neighbors help neighbors, and families support their elderly relatives—either by showing up or by arranging for help. Many of us already do this. Unfortunately, some of the loudest voices on social media seem uninterested in being part of the solution, which is a sad commentary on where we are as a community.

The fact remains: it is unsafe. And financial consequences are effective motivators.

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I don't believe it's appropriate for me to file a citizen's petition for Town Meeting, given the budget implications of enforcing a ticketing program. However, it is abundantly clear to the community that the current system is not working, and something must change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Morton Smith
Main Street

CPC info on Housing projects- FYI

1 message

Ann Richard <ann.richard@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 2, 2026 at 8:33 AM

To: khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov, Selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov

Here are some **facts** about Fairhaven CPC grants given to housing in town since 2005.

Total in Grants for Housing given: \$1,499,371.

New Units: 126.

Supported Units: 444

Total Units: 570.

We have a representative from the Fairhaven Housing Authority on the Fairhaven CPC as required by the regulations of the CPA. There has always been a representative on the Fairhaven CPC from the local HA. Over the years we have worked with a few different Directors of the Housing Authority.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Ann Richard-*she/her*
Chair-CPC

Municipal Affordable Housing Trust- Proposal in the Making

1 message

michelle costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 2:10 PM

To: Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>, selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, planningsecretary@fairhaven-ma.gov, buildingcommissioner@fairhaven-ma.gov, Jessica Fidalgo <jessica.wilder13@yahoo.com>, pjcarra@a1crane.com, Charlie Murphy <charlie.murphy@molifeinc.com>, ksylvia2@yahoo.com, Mark Sylvia <msylvia11@comcast.net>

Let's Get Started !

To the Town Administrator, Select Board, Planning Board, And Fairhaven Town Hall committee Members.

I want to think those of you who have shown a sincere interest in helping solve our housing stock shortages and housing affordability And Home ownership crisis, here in Fairhaven.

We have no time or money to waste.

I am very willing to help in any way I can, but I do believe wholeheartedly, that preparing a proposal for a **Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund**, to be as one of the articles on the warrant for this Spring's Town Meeting, should be a Collaborative Work.

I will help as much as I can, and wear the scope of my skills could be of service, but I am limited to take on this entire project by myself, and need the help of all of you whom I am addressing and have shown interest in helping solve our housing crisis here in Fairhaven.

I have attached two documents to get things started. As draft only using very simple language. Take a Look. And more importantly, LETS TAKE ACTION. Together, to really help keep our town of Fairhaven and our precious families, thriving.

Thank you,

Michelle Costen
Fairhaven Advocate

2 attachments

 **Creating A Housing Trust.pages**
179K

 **Structuring Article for warrant.pages**
335K

Ref: Request for full investigative disclosures, -1/2/26 meeting

1 message

Michelle Costen <michcosten@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 5:44 PM

To: selectboard@fairhaven-ma.gov, planningsecretary@fairhaven-ma.gov, pjcarra@atcrane.com, Jessica Fidalgo <jessica.wilder13@yahoo.com>, Keith Hickey <khickey@fairhaven-ma.gov>

To the Select Board,

I apologize that I had to leave the meeting last night before I could make a public comment in reference to full investigative disclosure, involving Timothy Street. I had made commitments with my daughter, that I had to keep.

I just wanted to say when you speak as Town Hall officials on social media, in ways that shows political divisiveness, And or condemnation towards another, especially before all the facts are known- what it does to the public, is create further distrust Towards our local governing body, and undermines your great efforts to want to work for the community in healthy and positive ways.

So I do feel that the Social media policy, especially for Town Hall officials, (as we consider you leaders in our town), should be regarded as a sacred standard, in order to protect the residents from further divide and mistrust.

This doesn't mean that we should not be transparent in our meetings. And that is not what I'm saying. Transparency is very important, but how we deliver transparency is also important.

None of us are perfect, and I think we should work on just trying to start all over again with a clean fresh slate.

I know that we see this kind of bashing and rhetoric everywhere on social media, and in government in general. But that still doesn't mean that we can't choose to be of better character. Especially if we really want to do good for our community.

It is a challenge, a daily challenge, to really work on polishing our characters. But it is one challenge that I sincerely work on every day.

I hope this public comment helps in some good way.

Warmest Regards,

Michelle Costen

Petition to Extend the External Investigation through October 19, 2025

Dear Members of the Fairhaven Select Board and Town Administrator Hickey,

As you well know, our elected and appointed officials dedicate their time, energy, and oftentimes other resources into the town on a voluntary basis. Running for and accepting public office means investing one's own resources during the election process and exposing oneself to public scrutiny and criticism, both as a candidate and as a public official. This alone likely deters many people from stepping up to volunteer. However, there are special individuals that are passionate and enthusiastic enough about this town that choose to make these sacrifices and take the risk of entering the public spotlight for the good of the community.

A number of our public officials are self-employed. They are the innovative, motivated, dedicated individuals within our community that have the flexibility to schedule their work responsibilities around their volunteer commitments. As self-employed people, their reputation is paramount to their ability to support themselves and their families.

When these individuals become political targets by other public officials, it puts their livelihood at stake. At no time should a public official that has dedicated copious amounts of time, energy, money, and their own personal vulnerability for the betterment of the town be subjected to unsubstantiated accusations and harassment from fellow public officials.

We believe that Diane Tomassetti was the target of such harassment from September 23, 2025 through October 19, 2025. During that time, there was at least one, if not numerous public officials, that engaged in public criticism and manipulation of facts that led the public to believe Ms. Tomassetti to be untrustworthy and corrupt. Subsequently, damaging remarks and unfounded accusations were printed and publicized in the local newspaper, were shared on Social Media, and were directed at her during a televised public meeting.

As you've indicated in your public statement that was dated July 28, 2025:

"The tone of public discourse is shaped by the behavior of those who serve, and it is our responsibility to demonstrate integrity and professionalism. This standard applies not only during official meetings but also at public events and in all forms of communication, including social media."

The defamation of character and the public humiliation that Ms. Tomassetti faced was spearheaded by fellow public officials and resulted in her abrupt resignation on Sunday, October 19, 2025. We are petitioning you to extend the timeline of the external investigation that was approved on 11/24/25 through the date of her official resignation.

Upholding the integrity of our public officials is of the utmost importance. It is these individuals who dedicate themselves on multiple fronts to the betterment of our town, making key decisions that affect the community as a whole. If Ms. Tomassetti was the victim of internal harassment, it should be recognized and those responsible should be held accountable for their actions. If

nothing is done to investigate this matter, not only would that be a terrible injustice for Ms. Tomassetti, but also a grave message to others considering volunteering for public office. We hope that you recognize that the future of Fairhaven relies heavily on attracting motivated, innovative, enthusiastic, committed individuals to serve the town. We believe in order to do that, it is imperative that those considering volunteerism are confident that they will be protected by yourselves, the leaders of Fairhaven, from any unjustified harassment and public humiliation from other public officials.

Furthermore, and equally important, is the distinction that Ms. Tomassetti was an *elected* public official. If internal harassment by fellow public officials was in fact the catalyst for her resignation, the constituents of Fairhaven deserve to know who was responsible.

Name	Sign	Address
1. Bethany Chase		169 New Boston Rd
2. Chris Chase		1169 New Boston Rd
3. Westin Chase	Westin Chase	169 New Boston Rd
4. Hillary Coucci	Hillary Coucci	10 Oliver St.
5. Guido Coucci		10 Oliver St.
6. Lacey Freitas	Lacey Freitas	101 Long Rd.
7. Tracy Manzoni	Tracy Manzoni	1 Manzone Rd
8. Gene Manzoni	Gene Manzoni	3 Shawmut St
9. Justin Methia	Justin Methia	49 Hider St Fairhaven
10. Susan Adao	Susan Adao	Costa Ave
11. Alyssa Chase	Alyssa Chase	Costa Ave
12. Jake Galary	Jake Galary	8 Turner Ave
13. Kendra Galary	Kendra Galary	8 Turner Ave
14. John Methia	John Methia	3 SHAWMUT STREET
15. Paul Geller	Paul Geller	19 Hitch Street
16. Kayla Gallant	Kayla Gallant	19 Hitch St.
17. Patrick Carr	Patrick Carr	141 Pleasant St

20. ~~Suzanne~~
21. DAVE BERBER
22. ~~Donna~~ Erin Carr
23. Gerald Bettercourt
24. Lori Bettercourt
- 25. Jammy Herholzer
- 26. Andrew Tripanio
- 27. ~~Robert Grindrod~~ Jennifer Cardoza
- 28. ~~Joe Pinto~~
- 29. ~~John Fontelle~~
- 30. ~~John Fontelle~~
- 31. ~~Sharon Hale~~
- 32. ~~Pete S. Wynn~~
- 33. ~~Laure Vlacant~~
- 34. Doug Brady - Doug Brady
- 35. Lee G Baumgartner
- 36. Lindsey Westgate
- 37. JTM & JKWOT Hendes Jr
- 38. Leanne Manning

- 141 Pleasant ST
- 177 Main St.
- 177 Main St.
- 101 Raymond St
- 101 Raymond St
- 89 Howland Rd
- 35 Highland Ave
- 48 Center St
- 386 Main St.
- 349 ALDEN RD.
- 9 BONNEY ST FAIRHAVEN MA.
- 9 BONNEY ST
- 111 ADAMS ST. FAIRHAVEN MA.
- 26 Highland ave
- 97 Pleasant St
- 97 Pleasant St.
- 24 Temple Place
- 25 MAWHEE WAY
- 33 Christian St

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1. Cathy Melanson 110 Adams St
2. Samantha DeSto 142 Bridge St
3. Melanni Mares 142 Bridge St.
4. Kathleen Jackson 40 Summer St
5. Susan N 30 Francis Street
6. Christine Car 55 Linden Ave
7. Kim Car 55 Linden Ave
8. Kenneth Wilson 110 Adams St. 1
9. ~~Heidi Mares~~ 30 Francis St.
10. ~~Heidi Mares~~ 9 Hutton Ave
11. ~~Heidi Mares~~ 16 Cape Cod St
12. Catherine Giller 55 Linden Ave
13. ~~Heidi Mares~~ 140 Bridge St
14. James McKay 140 Bridge St
15. Colleen Aule 112 Adams St
16. Sharon M. Duffran 31 Jesse Street
17. Margie R. Duffe 31 Jesse Street
18. Patrice K. Duffe 31 Jesse Street
19. ~~Heidi Mares~~ 60 Hacker Street

20. ~~Juan M Sewall~~ 62 Hacker St
21. ~~Wayne Sewall~~ 62 Hacker St
22. ~~Zachary Hunter~~ 46 Hathaway St
23. ~~Gord~~ ^{Sandra} ~~Pease~~ 65 HACKER ST
24. ~~Jack~~ ^{Jack Amodeo} 4 Dover Street
25. ~~Rose - Marie Souza~~ 135 Adams Street
26. ~~Jim & Suz~~ ^{James D Souza} 135 Adams St.
27. ~~Katie E. Souza~~ 4 Dover Street
28. ~~Jack Mary~~ ^{Jack Mary} 37 Shaw Road
29. ~~Jeff Kohlman~~ 56 Hacker St
30. ~~Jeff Kohlman~~ 56 Hacker St

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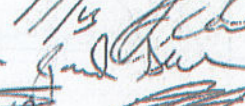
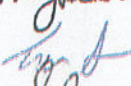
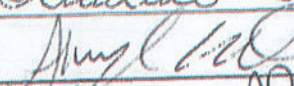
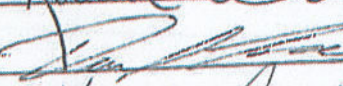
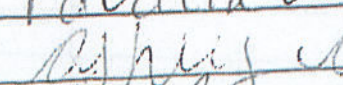
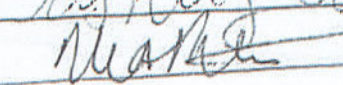
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1. Kerth Silvia	Kerth Silvia	21 Holiday Dr.	#5
2. Nicholas Costa		53 Daniel	3
3. Daniel Silvia		21 Holiday Dr	#5
4. Patricia Costa		14 + 121 + 111 ST	#4
5. Anne Silvia	Anne Silvia	21 Holiday Dr	5
6. Meghan Silvia	Meghan Silvia	52 Seaview Ave	5
7. 	Thomas Silvia	21 Holiday Dr	5
8. Sharon Costa		53 Daniel St	3
9. Adalino R. Costello		53 Daniel St.	3
10. 		53 Daniel St	3
11. Karen Goodhy		1 Hidden Dr.	
12. 		1 Hidden Dr	
13. Kerri Farland		1 Hidden Dr	
14. Paul A. Goodhy		1 HIDDEN DR	
15. Patricia Alrabke		24 Holiday Dr	
16. 		27 Holiday Dr.	
17. 		27 Holiday Dr.	
18. Kevin Miller		22 Holiday Dr.	
19. Colin Piccirilli		42 Seaview	

20.	Ed Hunt	45 SEAVIEW AVE	5
21.	Cliff Burton	48 Seaview Ave	5
22.	Peter Haworth	33 Sconticut NK Rd	
23.	Sharon Haworth	33 Sconticut NK Rd	
24.	Candida Dias	53 Seaview Ave	
25.	Uwayne Silveira	53 Seaview Ave	
26.	Donald Green	26 Holiday Dr	
27.	Helene Green	26 Holiday Dr	
28.	Paul Ross	15 Seaview Ave	
29.	Marion 1 Myto	15 Seaview Ave	
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