



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA

September 28, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall – 40 Center Street – Fairhaven

The meeting can also be viewed on Channel 97 or on FairhavenTV.com

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2026 SEP 22 PM4:07

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

B. APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

1. Use of Town Hall Request: Economic Development Committee: Olde-Tyme Holiday: December 12, 2026
2. Temporary Street Closure: Olde-Tyme Holiday, December 12, 2026: Center Street from Main Street to Green Street; William Street and Walnut Street from Washington Street to the Library
3. Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Olde-Tyme Holiday: December 12, 2026, 10:00AM-5:00PM
4. Review of Open Volunteer Opportunities

C. ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. Fire Chief Request to use \$3,569 from the Grant Matching Funds Article 8 of the Special Town Meeting of November 19, 2024
2. Discussion on Revised Draft of a Petition Letter for Increased State Aid
3. Discussion on Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy
4. Discussion on a Process for General Counsel and Labor Counsel Review and Selection
5. Vote to Call the State Election, Approve and Sign State Election Warrant for November 3, 2026
6. Consider Dissolution of Inactive Town Committees: Dog Park Study Committee and Fairhaven Buzzards Bay Water Quality Working Group

D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

E. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

F. MINUTES

1. Accept the Open Session minutes of September 14, 2026
2. Accept the Executive Session minutes of September 14, 2026

G. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next scheduled Select Board meeting will be on *Tuesday, October 13, 2026* at 6:00pm
2. The Town board reappointment meeting will be on *Wednesday, October 14, 2026* at 6:00PM

H. ADJOURN

Log on or call 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 860 2838 7081, Passcode: 484211

Subject matter listed in the agenda consists of items reasonably anticipated (by the Chair) to be discussed. Not all items listed may be discussed and other items not listed (i.e. urgent business not available at the time of posting) may also be brought up for discussion in accordance with applicable law.



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD AGENDA ADDENDUM

September 28, 2026 6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On March 28th, 2025, the bill to extend Open Meeting Law regulations governing remote participation has passed the MA legislature and been signed by the Governor. This bill will allow remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through June 30, 2027.

Pursuant to an amendment to Town By-Law Chapter 50-13, all government meetings are available through web/video conference and are recorded.

This meeting is being recorded by the Government Access Channel. It will be replayed on Channel 97 and posted on FairhavenTV.com. Anyone intending to make an audio or video recording of this meeting should notify the Chair at this time.

Due to recent security breaches, Fairhaven TV has implemented a new protocol: Zoom camera video for all participants is disabled. If participants would like to speak or be recognized, click "raise hand" under "reactions", and change your name to a full name to be unmuted. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting the integrity of Fairhaven government meetings.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

B. APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

1. Use of Town Hall Request: Economic Development Committee: Olde-Tyme Holiday:

December 12, 2026. The Economic Development Committee is seeking the Board's approval to use Town Hall for the annual Olde-Tyme Holiday event on Saturday, December 12, 2026. This annual event is held in the center of Town, there are a variety of events, shopping, food and festivities provided by various vendors. Participating locations include the Millicent Library, First Congregational Church, the Unitarian Church and others. Police and Fire are in support of the event.

Suggested Motion:

"Move to (approve/not approve) the use of Town Hall by the Economic Development Committee (as presented/as amended)."

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

2. **Temporary Street Closure: Olde-Tyme Holiday, December 12, 2026: Center Street from Main Street to Green Street; William Street and Walnut Street from Washington Street to the Library.** As part of the Olde-Tyme Holiday event, the Economic Development Committee is seeking the Board's approval for a temporary Street Closure during the event, the Board's packet materials contain a map showing the locations. Lt. Swain from FPD will work with the EDC to coordinate the temporary street closures. The EDC will apply to the Board of Public Works for barricades through their process.

Suggested Motion:

"Move to (approve/not approve) the application for temporary street closures on Center Street from Main Street to Green Street; on William Street and on Walnut Street from Washington Street to the Library (as presented/as amended) by the Economic Development Committee and in coordination with the Fairhaven Police Department."

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

Log on or call 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 860 2838 7081, Passcode: 484211

Subject matter listed in the agenda consists of items reasonably anticipated (by the Chair) to be discussed. Not all items listed may be discussed and other items not listed (i.e. urgent business not available at the time of posting) may also be brought up for discussion in accordance with applicable law.

3. **Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Olde-Tyme Holiday: December 12, 2026, 10:00AM-5:00PM.** The Economic Development Committee and Travelers Alehouse have applied for a Special One-Day All Alcohol License for the day of the event.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (approve/not approve) a Special One-Day All Alcohol License for the Economic Development Committee and Travelers Alehouse from 10:00am to 5:00PM on Saturday, December 12, 2026 (as presented/as amended).”

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

4. **Review of Open Volunteer Opportunities.** The Board’s packet contains a list of recent resignations and openings that appear on the Volunteer Opportunities page of the Town’s website as of the morning of September 22, 2026. The list may change as openings are identified. Interested applicants should review the page and can contact the Town Administrator’s office with any questions.

Suggested Motion:

“No motion needed”

C. ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. **Fire Chief Request to use \$3,569 from the Grant Matching Funds Article 8 of the Special Town Meeting of November 19, 2024.** At the Special Town Meeting of November 19, 2024 an article was approved that appropriated Town funds to be used when a Town Department applies for a grant and the Town Administrator and Select Board approved the use. Most grant applications contain a provision that matching funds from the municipality be available as part of the process; at times the deadline would be missed if the department had to wait for an appropriation. Chief Correia is seeking the Board’s approval to use \$3,569 from this article as the 5% match for a FEMA grant to purchase a LifePack 15/35. The Board’s packet materials contain a memo from the Chief with details of the grant, equipment and need. If the grant is not awarded, the funds will not be used.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (approve/not approve) the use of \$3,569 from the Grant Matching Funds appropriation from Article 8 of the Special Town Meeting of November 19, 2024 with the condition that if the grant is not awarded, the funds would remain in the article balance.”

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

2. **Discussion on Revised Draft of a Petition Letter for Increased State Aid.** Member Rick Trapilo will review a revised draft letter seeking the support from other South Coast communities to forward to their legislative delegation seeking additional funding from the Commonwealth.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (approve/not approve) the local aid letter (as presented/as amended) and distribute to communities on the South Coast seeking their support of requesting additional funding from the Commonwealth.”

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

3. **Discussion on Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy.** Member Natalie Mello will review a draft AI Policy for the Town. The School Committee reviewed a first draft of a policy for the School District at a recent meeting. The Town’s IT Director supports a policy and will facilitate training to Town Department Heads once a policy is adopted by the Board.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (approve/not approve) the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy (as presented/as amended).”

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

4. **Discussion on a Process for General Counsel and Labor Counsel Review and Selection.** The Legal RFP closed at 4:00PM on September 21, 2026 and the Town received four proposals from area firms. The Town Administrator is compiling the bid results. A summary of the results will be distributed prior to the Board meeting once the summary is complete. The Town Administrator is requesting the Board determine the process to review the proposals and selection process.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to request the Town Administrator contact the four firms that submitted proposals to inform them _____.”

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

5. **Vote to Call the State Election, Approve and Sign State Election Warrant for November 3, 2026.** The Town Clerk’s Office is requesting the Board to call the State Election and approve the Ballot for the State Election on November 3, 2026. The Board’s packet materials contain the warrant.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (call/not call) the State Election and (approve/not approve) the Election Warrant for November 3, 2026 (as presented/as amended).”

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

6. **Consider Dissolution of Inactive Town Committees: Dog Park Study Committee and Fairhaven Buzzards Bay Water Quality Working Group.** At the last meeting Chair Andrew Romano is seeking the Board’s review of inactive Town Committees. The Dog Park Study Committee was reactivated in April of 2024 and was unable to establish a quorum to meet;

The Fairhaven Buzzards Bay Water Quality Working Group was created in July of 2024 with a charge stating: *First, to investigate the cause of the degradation of the water quality in Buzzards Bay, specifically the Fairhaven waters which has been happening within the last two years; second, once that cause is reasonably determined, make recommendations on the next course of action to address the issue or to remediate the issue in a reasonable way; third, as part of their investigation, to*

communicate with other neighboring towns within the Buzzards Bay Watershed to see if they have similar committees and what they have investigated and find ways to coordinate efforts and work together. The Working Group, to date, does not have enough members for a quorum and has never met.

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (amend/not amend) the previously adopted reactivation of the Dog Park Study Committee and to (rescind/not rescind) the motion of July 15, 2024 that created the Fairhaven Buzzards Bay Water Quality Working Group.”

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

E. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

F. MINUTES

1. Accept the Open Session minutes of September 14, 2026

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (accept/not accept) the Open Session Minutes of September 14, 2026 (as presented/as amended).”

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

2. Accept the Executive Session minutes of September 14, 2026

Suggested Motion:

“Move to (accept/not accept) the Executive Session Minutes of September 14, 2026 (as presented/as amended).”

Moved by, seconded by _____. Any discussion on the motion. Vote

3. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next scheduled Select Board meeting will be on *Tuesday, October 13, 2026* at 6:00pm
2. The Town board reappointment meeting will be on *Wednesday, October 14, 2026* at 6:00PM

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

5. ADJOURN



September 28, 2026

APPOINTMENTS AND COMMUNITY ITEMS

1. Use of Town Hall Request: Economic Development Committee:
Olde-Tyme Holiday: December 12, 2026
2. Temporary Street Closure: Olde-Tyme Holiday, December 12, 2026:
Center Street from Main Street to Green Street;
William Street and Walnut Street from Washington Street to the Library
3. Special One-Day All Alcohol License: Olde-Tyme Holiday:
December 12, 2026, 10:00AM-5:00PM
4. Review of Open Volunteer Opportunities



**Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts
Select Board**

40 CENTER STREET
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719
TEL: (508) 979-4023
FAX: (508) 979-4079
Selectboard@Fairhaven-MA.gov

Today's Date
time stamped

APPLICATION FOR THE USE OF TOWN HALL

Name of Organization Economic Development Committee
Responsible Officer Cathy Melanson Tel. No. 508-989-2289
Address _____
Purpose of Use Olde-Tyme Holiday Event
Space Requested Town Hall
Date Requested 12/12/26 Begin Time 8:00 AM End Time 5:30 pm
Number of attendees ? (occupancy to be reviewed by Building Commissioner, not to exceed 299)

SELECT BOARD

2026AUG31 9:50:50

REQUEST FOR AUDIO / VISUAL TECHNICIAN: YES _____ NO NW

Fee will be \$100.00 (up to three hours). Each additional hour will be charged \$25.00.

Additional fee will be charged once additional hour begins. Cash or Check made out to The Town of Fairhaven.

Select Board / Town Administrator

Police Chief / Representative

Board of Health

Fire Department / Inspection

*Must have full review from applicable departments
prior to Select Board approval*

Building Department Inspection

FEES (To be completed by the Office of the Select Board)

Office Use only

Rental Fee x _____ hrs. at \$ 150.00 / hr.	=	\$ _____	(minimum 3 hours)
Plus refundable security deposit in the amount of the rental fee	=	\$ _____	
_____ Audio \$100.00 plus _____ hrs. at \$25.00 /hr.	=	\$ _____	
_____ Custodian x _____ hrs. at \$ 50.00 /hr.	=	\$ _____	
_____ Police x _____ hrs. at \$ _____ hr.	=	\$ _____	
TOTAL FEES	=	\$ _____	

I have received \$ _____ in fees and security deposit for the use of Town Hall Facilities on behalf of Town of Fairhaven from

Organization

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Select Board Office

(Security Deposit will be returned after inspection of the premises by the Select Board or its designee, less any charge for clean up or repair.)



**Town of Fairhaven
Massachusetts
Select Board**

40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Tel: (508) 979-4023
Fax: (508) 979-4079
selectboard@Fairhaven-MA.gov

Release and Indemnification Agreement

In consideration of the rental from the Town of Fairhaven ("Town") of the Town Hall and or Town Hall Auditorium, the undersigned hereby releases and forever discharges the Town and its officers, agents and employees from all suits, claims and demands of any nature whatsoever, including for negligence, which he or she or his or her heirs or assigns may ever have for any personal or bodily injury, death or property damage arising out of, related to or resulting from, in whole or in part, the use of the premises as described above.

The undersigned further agrees, for him or herself and his or her heirs and assigns, to defend and indemnify the Town and its officers, agents and employees against all such suits, claims and demands by any third party, including invitees and others, and to save them forever harmless therefrom.

If any damage to the Town Hall and or Town Hall Auditorium or any equipment or appurtenance therein, results from any act or neglect of the undersigned, its agents, guests, licensees or invitees, the undersigned shall be liable therefore and shall upon demand, reimburse the Town for all costs and expenses of such repairs and damages.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that he or she has read and understands this release and Indemnification, and that if he or she is signing on behalf of another person or entity, he or she is authorized to do so and that such other person or entity intends to be fully bound hereby.

Signature:

Cathy Melanson

Printed Name:

Cathy Melanson

Date:

8/31/2006

Before me:

[Signature]
Witness Signature

To be signed in the presence of Town Hall staff



Town of Fairhaven

Massachusetts

40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE/BLOCK PARTY APPLICATION

Today's Date: _____

Date of event: 12/12/26

Time of event: 7:30^{am} - 5:30^{pm}

Road (s) to be blocked: Center St From Main to Green

William from Washington to Back of Library Walnut (Same as William)

Estimated number of attendees: 200 Age group: all

Have all residents been notified Y/N will be How notified: letter

Please provide of copy of notification with application

Name, address and telephone number of 2 residents as point of contact in addition to the applicant.

Name: Tracy Travers

Name: Keith Silva

Address: 25 Union St

Address: 21 Holiday Dr

Phone: 774-263-4905

Phone: 774-263-2249

By signing, I attest to having read, understand and will comply with the Temporary Street Closing Policy if this application is approved including conditions for public safety provided by Police, Fire and DPW.

Signature of applicant: Cathy Melanson

Print Name: Cathy Melanson

Phone: 508-989-2289

Address: 110 Adams St

Email: Cathymelanson@fahaven.com edechair@fairhaven-ma.gov

OFFICE USE: Review by Police Fire and DPW for approval, any public safety conditions will be noted.

DPW:

Comments:

Police:

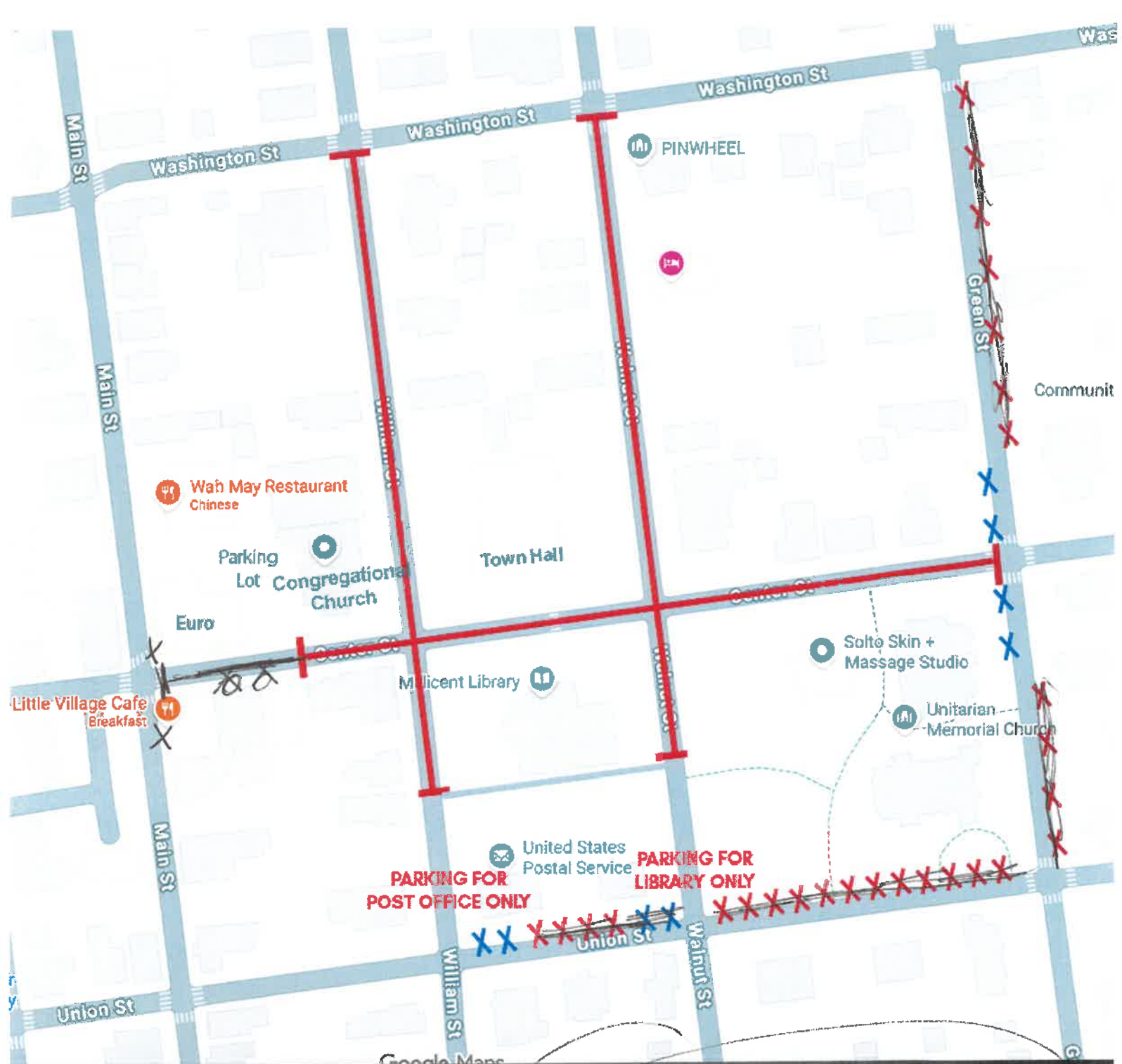
Comments:

Fire:

Comments:

Town Administrator:

Comments:



X NO PARKING

X HANDICAPPED PARKING



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL LICENSE

General Law Chapter 138, Section 14

Date:

8/31/24

To the Licensing Board:

The undersigned hereby applies for a SPECIAL LICENSE under provisions of Chapter 138, Section 14 to sell

(Beer and Wine)

or

All Alcoholic Beverages
(All Alcoholic Beverages)

For a Olde Tyme Holiday to be held at

Town Hall

40 Center St

by EDC / Travelers Alehouse

date December 12, 2024 (Saturday)

from 10:00 AM to 5:00 pm

Name of Applicant: Minh Tieu

Address of Applicant: 111 Huttleston Ave.

Fairhaven, MA 02719

Telephone: 774-263-4373

For a banquet or public dinner, the applicant should be responsible, manager of the banquet or public dinner.

For a picnic, field day or outing, applicant should be a representative of responsible organization or individual.

FEE:

Beer & Wine \$50.00

All Alcoholic \$75.00

Board or Committee	Vacancy available	Deadline to apply
Accepting applications for all positions	Any with expired terms	Noon on Thursday, October 8, 2026
Belonging Committee	One Member	open until filled
Cable Advisory Committee	Two Members	open until filled
Cultural Council	Two Members, 3-year term	open until filled
Historical Commission	Associate Members, not to exceed number of Full Members	open until filled
Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee	One Member	open until filled
Livable Streets Committee	Unlimited	open until filled
Applicants will be advised of the date the Board will consider appointment requests		<i>Terms are 1-year unless indicated</i>



September 28, 2026

ACTION / DISCUSSION

1. Fire Chief Request to use \$3,569 from the Grant Matching Funds
Article 8 of the Special Town Meeting of November 19, 2024
2. Discussion on Revised Draft of a Petition Letter for Increased State Aid
3. Discussion on Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy
4. Discussion on a Process for General Counsel and Labor Counsel
Review and Selection
5. Vote to Call the State Election, Approve and Sign State Election
Warrant for November 3, 2026
6. Consider Dissolution of Inactive Town Committees: Dog Park Study
Committee and Fairhaven Buzzards Bay Water Quality Working Group

ARTICLE 8: MATCHING FUNDS FOR GRANT WRITER

C 1

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue (Free Cash) the sum of \$250,000 for matching funds associated with grants or take any action relative thereto.

Petitioned by: Accounting/Finance Department

Select Board: Recommend Adoption

Finance Committee: Recommend Adoption

For FY25, monies were appropriated to provide the Town with a Grant Writer. In most cases, in order to apply for various grants, the Grant Writer will need funds available as a town match.

PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Request for Increased State Aid for South Coast Communities

To: The Governor of Massachusetts, Members of the Massachusetts Legislature, and Commonwealth Budget Leadership

From: The School Committees, Select Boards, City Councils, and Municipal Leaders of the South Coast Region

A Call for Fair and Increased State Support

We, the undersigned municipal and school leaders representing communities throughout the South Coast, respectfully call upon the Commonwealth to provide **greater and more equitable state financial support** through Chapter 70 education aid, Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA), and other municipal funding programs.

South Coast Communities are facing unprecedented fiscal pressures. The costs of education, public safety, infrastructure, employee compensation, essential services, and state mandates continue to rise while local revenues remain limited.

At the same time, our residents are facing higher housing costs, insurance, utilities, and everyday expenses.

Local taxpayers cannot continue to shoulder an ever-increasing share of the cost of government through higher property taxes and local overrides.

We believe the Commonwealth and its municipalities must share responsibility for meeting these challenges.

We Respectfully Request:

1. Increased Chapter 70 Education Funding

Increase Chapter 70 funding to better reflect the true and rising cost of providing a high-quality public education and to ensure equitable educational opportunities for every Massachusetts student.

2. Increased Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA)

Provide municipalities with greater unrestricted resources to maintain essential services, protect public safety, and address rising operating costs without placing an unsustainable burden on local taxpayers.

3. Modernization of State Aid Formulas

Review and update existing state funding formulas to reflect today's population trends, economic conditions, service demands, and the actual costs facing Massachusetts communities.

A Shared Investment in Our Future

Investing in the South Coast is investing in Massachusetts.

Strong schools, safe communities, reliable infrastructure, responsible municipal government, and a competitive local economy benefit not only our residents, but the entire Commonwealth.

Our Call to Action

We respectfully urge the Governor and Legislature to make **increased and equitable state support for South Coast communities a priority in future budgets and legislative initiatives.**

We are prepared to do our part through responsible budgeting, fiscal discipline, operational efficiencies, regional cooperation, and accountability.

The South Coast is ready to do its part. We ask the Commonwealth to stand with us.

Together, we can protect taxpayers, strengthen our schools, maintain essential services, grow our economy, and build a stronger future for the South Coast and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Undersigned School Committees, Select Boards, City Councils, and Municipal Leaders of the South Coast Region of Massachusetts

Communities Supporting This Petition:

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USE POLICY (DRAFT)

The Town of Fairhaven recognizes the potential benefits of generative AI tools to improve efficiency, creativity, innovation, communication and public service delivery. At the same time, use of these tools must be carefully managed to protect residents, employees, elected and appointed officials, and the Town from risks associated with improper handling of sensitive data. This policy establishes guidelines for appropriate and responsible use of Generative AI.

These Guidelines are adopted pursuant to and supplement the Town of Fairhaven Internet, E-Mail and Computer Use Policy. All use of artificial intelligence technologies in connection with Town business remains subject to the requirements, restrictions, monitoring provisions, reporting obligations and enforcement mechanisms contained within that policy and all other applicable Town policies.

Generative AI tools are intended to assist employees in performing their duties and may not replace employee judgement, professional expertise, legal obligations, required approvals, or established decision-making processes.

This policy ensures the Town of Fairhaven responsibly leverages the benefits of Generative AI while safeguarding sensitive information and upholding public trust.

DEFINITIONS

Artificial Intelligence (AI): A technology solution, system, or machine that typically requires human intelligence (reasoning, language generation, pattern recognition, research, analysis and decision-making abilities) and is meant to mimic human intelligence to perform tasks while iteratively improving itself based on the information it collects.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (Generative AI) refers to a class of AI systems capable of creating new, original content such as text, images, audio, video, software code, summaries, or other media based on user prompts, inputs, and existing data. Unlike traditional AI, which typically classifies or predicts based on existing data, generative AI can produce new outputs that resemble human-created work.

Sensitive Information includes any data or information relating to specific individuals, businesses, business partners, service providers, Town systems, transactions, or operations where disclosure could cause harm to the Town or another party. Sensitive information includes but is not limited to personally identifiable information (PII), financial information, personnel records, medical information, security information, legal communications, executive session materials, information exempt from disclosure under the Massachusetts Public Records Law, and other information protected by law or Town policies.

POLICY

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this policy is to define the permitted and prohibited uses of Generative AI within Town government, ensuring compliance with state and federal laws, protecting confidential information, and maintaining public trust.
2. **Scope.** This policy applies to Town of Fairhaven employees, elected and appointed officials, contractors, volunteers, and any other individuals who use Generative AI tools for Town business.
3. **Prohibited Data.** The following categories of sensitive information must not be entered into any AI prompt or system:
 - Personally Identifiable Information (PII): names with addresses, dates of birth, SSNs, or contact details.
 - Protected Health Information (PHI): medical, mental health, or disability-related records (HIPAA-covered).
 - Legal Advice.
 - Security and Infrastructure Data: IT systems, passwords, vulnerabilities, emergency response plans, or law enforcement data.
 - Resident and Community Data: tax accounts, billing information, social services records, complaints tied to individuals.
 - Other Confidential Data: information exempt under Massachusetts Public Records Law.
4. **Permitted Uses.** Generative AI may be used for the following purposes, provided no prohibited data is included:
 - Drafting communications (emails, memoranda, reports, policies, presentations) or public messaging using non-sensitive information.
 - Summarizing publicly available documents or meeting notes.
 - Conducting research using publicly available information.
 - Creating templates, forms, or standard operating procedures (SOPs).
 - Brainstorming ideas and developing outlines.
 - Translation assistance.
 - Formatting, editing and improving written content.
 - Assisting with public communications and publications where appropriate review is performed.
5. **Prohibited Uses and Data.**
Generative AI shall not be used as the sole basis for:
 - Personnel decisions
 - Legal determinations
 - Procurement evaluations

- Public Safety decision
- Regulatory enforcement

Employees shall not use or enter data into Generative AI tools to:

- Generate legal determinations, personnel decisions, or disciplinary actions without human review and approval
- Conduct unlawful, discriminatory, harassing or unethical activities
- Knowingly generate false or misleading information
- Circumvent cybersecurity controls or procurement procedures
- Use personal AI accounts for Town business
- Violate any local, state, or federal law

6. Oversight and Review.

- All output generated by AI must be reviewed by a Town employee for accuracy, bias, completeness and appropriateness prior to use, publication, distribution, or reliance in any official capacity.
- Employees remain responsible for the accuracy, appropriateness, legality, completeness, and quality of all work generated with the assistance of AI technologies.
- Employees shall verify factual claims using trusted and authoritative sources (not AI).
- Violations may result in disciplinary action consistent with Town policies and collective bargaining agreements.
- AI-generated output shall be treated as draft material until and unless independently reviewed and validated by a Town employee.
- Employees shall disclose the use of AI-generated content in public facing materials where AI substantially shaped the final content, including official reports, public notices, meeting minutes, and communications issued on behalf of the Town.

7. Future Applications and Approval. The Town of Fairhaven will continue to explore potential applications of generative AI in municipal government to enhance efficiency, transparency, and service delivery. Any uses of AI not explicitly permitted in this policy must be discussed with and receive prior approval from the Town Administrator before implementation.

These Guidelines shall be reviewed periodically and may be updated as necessary to address changes in technology, cybersecurity risks, legal requirements, operational needs, and industry best practices.

8. Authority. These Guidelines are issued under the authority of the Town Administrator and pursuant to the Town of Fairhaven Internet, E-Mail and Computer Use Policy.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
 SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WARRANT FOR 2026 STATE ELECTION

SS.

To the Constables of the Town of Fairhaven

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Elections to vote at:

Precincts 1-6

Fairhaven Recreation Center
 227 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven, MA 02719

On **TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the candidates for the following offices and questions:

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
GOVERNOR and LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
ATTORNEY GENERAL	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARY OF STATE	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
TREASURER	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
AUDITOR	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	NINTH DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR	FIRST DISTRICT
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	SECOND BRISTOL & PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	TENTH BRISTOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	BRISTOL DISTRICT
REGISTER OF PROBATE	BRISTOL COUNTY
COUNTY TREASURER	BRISTOL COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSIONER	BRISTOL COUNTY

QUESTION 1: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. This proposed law would exempt documents related to the development of public policy and communications between legislators and their constituents, if those communications are reasonably related to a constituent's request for assistance in obtaining government-provided benefits or services or interacting with a government agency.

A YES VOTE would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the Massachusetts Public Records Law.

QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would specify that employees of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (“CPCS”) are permitted to engage in collective bargaining with their employer. It would also require CPCS, after executing a collective bargaining agreement, to request the appropriation necessary to fund such agreement from the Governor.

A YES VOTE would specify that Committee for Public Counsel Services employees may form a union to collectively bargain with their employer.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the law governing labor relations for Committee for Public Counsel Service employees.

QUESTION 3: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would eliminate political party primaries for state elections and instead establish a system where there would be a single, all-party primary in which all candidates, regardless of their party affiliation, would be listed on one ballot, and voters could vote for any candidate on the ballot. The two candidates receiving the most votes in the primary would advance to the general election ballot.

This proposed law would require candidates for governor and lieutenant governor to run and be listed jointly on the ballot in the primary.

This proposed law would provide political party status to any group whose candidates for any statewide office received at least 3% of the ballots cast in the state primary.

A YES VOTE would eliminate separate party primaries for state elections and require a single primary in which all candidates appear on one ballot, voters could vote for any candidate, and the top two candidates would advance to the general election.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the laws governing primary elections.

QUESTION 4: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would permit eligible individuals to register to vote or update their voter registration address on Election Day.

An individual who is eligible to vote could register to vote on Election Day by going to the polling place in the precinct where they live during voting hours and presenting proof of residency and signing a written oath. Proof of residency could be a valid photo identification, or documentation showing the individual’s name and the address where the individual resides, such as a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, residential lease, wireless telephone statement, paycheck, current student fee statement or other document from a post-secondary school, or another government document or correspondence. The written oath would require the individual to certify that they are a citizen of the United States, are at least 18 years old, are not legally prohibited from voting, and have not and will not vote in the same election at another

location. The oath would require the individual to acknowledge that providing false information is a felony punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

If an individual did not present proof of residency, they would be allowed to cast a provisional ballot, which would be counted only if the individual returned to provide the required information before the close of polls for a municipal election; within two days after a state primary; or within six days after a state election.

Individuals who register to vote on Election Day would be registered to vote in future elections as well as in the election taking place that day.

Individuals who are already registered to vote would not be able to change their political party affiliation on Election Day.

The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2028.

A YES VOTE would permit eligible citizens to register to vote or to update their voter registration address at their polling place on Election Day.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the laws governing voter registration.

QUESTION 5: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would change the limit on how much revenue the state can collect in a given year. The proposal would limit state revenue in a given year to the net amount of state revenue from the year before, increased by a rate equal to the average growth of wages and salaries in Massachusetts over the most recent three years. If revenue collected by the state in a given year exceeds the limit, the excess amount would be refunded to taxpayers the following year. The proposed law would include all revenue from the surtax on incomes over \$1 million when calculating the revenue limit and when determining whether state revenue exceeds the limit.

The provisions of the proposed law would all be effective as of July 1, 2027.

The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would change the limit on state revenue collection, tying it to prior year collections plus average wage and salary growth, and provide for a rebate of revenue exceeding that limit.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to state revenue collection.

QUESTION 6: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would establish a Nature for All Fund that, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, would receive 50% of state taxes collected from the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses for the first year of its operation. After July 1, 2028, the Nature for All Fund would begin receiving, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, 100% of state taxes collected on the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses. The sales tax revenue received by the Nature for All Fund would exclude sales tax revenue transferred to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority State and Local Contribution Fund and the School Modernization and Reconstruction Trust Fund. The proposed law would allow the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to spend the money in the Nature for All Fund for natural resource conservation.

The proposed law would allow public and private donations to the Nature for All Fund. The proposed law would prevent the state comptroller from transferring surplus funds in the Nature for All Fund at the end of the fiscal year. It would also allow state agencies, municipalities, public charities involved in natural resource conservation, tribal governments, and other regional public entities to receive money from the Nature for All Fund.

Natural resource conservation would include the conservation or restoration of land to protect drinking water, streams, rivers, lakes, coasts, farms, forests, connectivity between open spaces, and lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural significance. Natural resource conservation would also include the creation, improvement, and management of parks, trails, greenspaces or outdoor recreation access.

The proposed law would establish a 15-member Nature for All Board that consists of five state officials and ten members of the public appointed by the Governor. The proposed law would require the ten members of the public to include representatives of underserved communities and indigenous peoples and at least one person with expertise or experience in natural resource conservation. The proposed law would allow the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to spend money from the Nature for All Fund to hire staff to manage the fund. The proposed law would also require the Nature for All Board to establish rules about how the money in the Nature for All Fund should be spent, including rules regarding alignment with environmental justice principles, access to and restoration of lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural significance, promotion of affordable housing development, and other matters regarding spending and bond issuance.

The proposed law would require the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to submit an annual report to various state committees regarding the funds spent to buy or improve land in cities and towns containing environmental justice populations.

The proposed law would take effect on July 1, 2027.

A YES VOTE would create a fund that could be utilized for natural resource conservation that would receive some state taxes collected on the sale and use of sporting goods and recreational vehicles, and the use of golf courses.

A NO VOTE would not create this natural resource conservation fund or change how sales and use taxes are spent.

QUESTION 7: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would allow single-family homes to be built in a residentially zoned area as long as the land on which it is to be constructed is at least 5,000 square feet, has at least 50 feet of land bordering the street, road, or public way that it faces, and has access to public sewer and water services.

The proposed law would allow cities and towns to reasonably regulate certain aspects of those single-family homes, including their height, distance from neighboring buildings, open space, parking requirements, and whether they can be rented out on a short-term basis. The proposed law would also allow the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to issue guidance or regulations to administer the proposed law.

A YES VOTE would allow single-family homes to be built on lots of 5,000 square feet or more in residential areas, subject to reasonable local regulation of certain aspects of those homes.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the law relative to building single-family homes.

QUESTION 8: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

SUMMARY

The proposed law would change the type and amount of marijuana that may legally be possessed in Massachusetts by repealing the laws that legalize, regulate, and tax the retail sale of adult recreational use marijuana in Massachusetts. The proposed law would also permit persons 21 years of age and older to possess 1 ounce or less of marijuana including no more than 5 grams in the form of concentrate, and to gift or transfer to another person 21 years of age and older 1 ounce or less of marijuana including no more than 5 grams in the form of concentrate. The proposed law would also impose a civil penalty of \$100 and forfeiture of the marijuana for the possession of marijuana between the weight of 1 and 2 ounces.

For persons 21 years of age and younger, the proposed law would make the possession of 2 ounces or less of marijuana a civil infraction subject to a \$100 fine, forfeiture of the marijuana, completion of a drug awareness program and community service, and notification to their parents or legal guardian of the offense and penalties.

The proposed law would allow currently licensed adult recreational marijuana businesses to apply on an expedited basis to become a licensed medical marijuana dispensary and to sell their remaining inventory of adult recreational marijuana to medical marijuana dispensaries. The proposed law would retain the Cannabis Control Commission but modify its authority so it would regulate only the medical marijuana market.

The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2028.

A YES VOTE would prohibit the legalization, regulation, and taxation of the retail sale of adult recreational use marijuana, and change the penalties for possession of marijuana.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the law relative to marijuana.

QUESTION 9: REFERENDUM ON AN EXISTING LAW

Do you approve of a law summarized below, which was approved by the House of Representatives on July 18, 2024 by a vote of 124 to 33, and approved by the Senate on July 18, 2024 by a vote of 35 to 5?

SUMMARY

This law makes a number of changes to Massachusetts laws governing firearms.

The law adds school administrators and licensed healthcare providers as parties permitted to ask a court to issue an Extreme Risk Protection Order – requiring an individual to surrender or relinquish their firearm licenses, permits, and firearms - if an individual is a present danger to self or others. The law also provides that, when issuing an Harassment Prevention Order, a court may also order the surrender of firearms licenses, permits, and firearms.

The law imposes penalties for possessing, creating, and transferring untraceable “ghost gun” firearms and requires all firearms except antiques and relics, including unfinished frames and receivers that can be readily made into a finished product, to have serial numbers. The law includes privately-made guns like 3D-printed guns within the provisions governing untraceable “ghost gun” firearms.

The law changes firearms licensing requirements to: (1) allow local licensing authorities to request prior license and permit information from the state, as well as access petitions for involuntary mental health commitments denied by a court in addition to prior involuntary commitments, as a part of their review of applications for licenses to carry firearms, firearm ID cards, and licenses to sell firearms; (2) require an individual to be 21 years of age to own semiautomatic rifles or shotguns; (3) add the possibility of incarceration of up to six months for a second offense of failing to report a firearm loss or theft; and (4) enable 12-15 year olds to apply for a self-defense spray permit with parental permission, and 15 to 18 year olds to apply independently.

The law allows local firearm licensing authorities to transfer the responsibility to inspect firearm dealers to the State Police. The law requires local licensing authorities to attend statewide training regarding those inspections. It requires dealers to confiscate expired or suspended licenses and report them to the state and to local licensing authorities.

The law changes the definition of “machine gun” to include bump stocks, trigger cranks, Glock switches and auto sears among the devices whose possession and use are subject to penalties. It expands the definition of “silencer” to include the parts used to construct a silencer.

The law clarifies how to determine whether a firearm is an assault-style weapon and the circumstances under which a person may continue to possess assault-style weapons and large capacity feeding devices they already own.

The law requires the state Firearm Control Advisory Board and the state Secretary of Public Safety and Security to review and update the rosters of prohibited assault-style firearms, approved firearms, and approved firearms sold for target shooting.

The law clarifies requirements relating to the carry and transport of firearms in motor vehicles and ATVs. It prohibits the carrying of firearms in government buildings, polling locations, and schools, with certain exceptions.

The law expands data compilation and reporting requirements to and from the state, and creates a publicly-accessible dashboard of anonymized aggregate firearm data, along with a commission to study that data.

The law requires the State Police to provide training and a test for new applicants for licenses to carry or Firearm ID cards.

The law establishes two special legislative commissions – one to examine funding for violence prevention services, and one to study emerging firearms technology.

The law criminalizes discharging a firearm and striking a building in use.

A YES VOTE would keep in place the law, which increases the regulation of firearms, including ghost guns, machine guns, and assault-style weapons.

A NO VOTE would repeal this law.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of _____, 2026.
(month)

Select Board of Fairhaven

Posted on the official Town of Fairhaven website, at Town Hall, and at the Fairhaven Recreation Center.

_____, 2026.
Constable (month and day)

Warrant must be posted by **October 27, 2026** (at least *seven days prior* to the **November 3, 2026** State Election).



September 28, 2026
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT



Town of Fairhaven

Report of the Town Administrator

September 28, 2026

Financial Updates

- I will be attending the MMA's Fiscal Summit on October 1st. The meeting will discuss the fiscal challenges facing municipalities across the Commonwealth.
- I met with City of New Bedford's Director of Data Management Christina Cotsoridis to continue discussions to identify opportunities to regionalize some municipal services. I anticipate those conversations to continue in October.

Project Updates

- The four decorative street lights are currently being installed around the Millicent Library property.
- A representative from the New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School informed me that they will be finishing the storage shed located in the COA/Recreation parking lot in October, now that they have completed their work on the High School storage building.

Personnel Update

- Most Town employees who manage staff attended an Employment Practices Seminar on Tuesday afternoon September 22nd. The seminar provided an update on understanding workplace discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination and hostile work environment situations

Miscellaneous Updates

- The Atlas Tack Working Group Chari and I will participate in a conference call on Monday, September 28th to discuss a party who is interested in purchasing the Atlas Tack property. I will update the Board on the discussion at your meeting.



September 28, 2026

MINUTES

1. Accept the Open Session minutes of September 14, 2026
2. Accept the Executive Session minutes of September 14, 2026



FAIRHAVEN SELECT BOARD

F 1

Meeting Minutes September 14, 2026

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – 6:00PM Eversource Petition Job# 27795573

Mr. Romano opened the Public Hearing at 6:01pm and read the notice.

Julie Longa of Eversource addressed the Board via Zoom and reviewed details. The Board asked if any trees would be removed during this process. Ms. Longa advised the Board that the petition is for a new pole and no trees are to be removed.

Public Comment:

John Hevey of 24 Green Street addressed the Board and asked to clarify whether the poles in the yards at 24 Green Street and 26 Green Street would be removed or stay. Ms. Longa confirmed service for 26 Green Street will be relocated from the yard pole to the new pole and if he would like to request moving lines for 24, Ms. Longa could have someone reach out to him.

Mr. Romano closed the Public Hearing at 6:05pm

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the petition for Job and Work Order# 27795573 from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. to install 1 (one) new FO (fully owned) pole to be labeled 108/9.5 in the Right of Way of Green Street to provide upgraded electrical service to 26 Green Street. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Bermug of Springfield, Missouri, stated that he and his wife own a condominium at 138 Main Street that is rented part of the year. He expressed concerns regarding excessive vehicle exhaust noise at the intersection of Main Street and Huttleston Avenue, which he stated disrupts conversations and sleep for both the owners and their renters. Mr. Bermug raised concerns regarding unreasonable noise, disturbance of the peace, quiet-hour violations, and compliance with local and state regulations. He referenced 310 CMR 7.10 and 310 CMR 7.52, including maximum decibel levels and provisions allowing for local enforcement, and expressed concerns regarding modified vehicle exhaust systems following inspection. The police suggested speaking to the Board about a sign stating violation of noise ordinances will be cited, license suspended or fined.

Joan Welch of 138 Main Street addressed the Board to add to what was just said and that there are drag races on the bridge back and forth as well as motorcycle rallies.

APPOINTMENTS / COMMUNITY ITEMS

Appointment Request: Board of Assessors: Rui Pereira

Mr. Pereira addressed the Board about his qualifications, his experience and background. The Board asked questions about the challenges he sees as an Assessor, what his approach would be if his opinion contradicted with state law and if there were any potential impacts to his position in Bourne.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to appoint Rui Pereira to the Board of Assessors for a three-year term. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Event Request: Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Walk-A-Thon, October 24, 2026

Kim Wilmot of Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC) addressed the Board about the event and details of their 8th annual walk-a-thon. Mr. Hickey added that the Police Department asked the organizers to get approval from the Board for the event to ensure consistency with similar events that come before the Board.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned approve the event request for the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative's Walk-A-Thon on October 24, 2026 with any conditions or requirements from Police, Fire and Public Works. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Request from the Fairhaven Police Department to Consider Traffic/Parking Control Requests: No Parking Sign: Ash Street at the Intersection of Adams Street; No Left Turn: Bridge Street exit of 240 Bridge Street; Handicap (HP) Parking Only Sign: 41 Hedge Street

Lt. Kevin Swain and Officer Scott Coelho addressed the Board about each of the requests and answered clarifying questions from the Board about each location, each request, current parking use, current signage, the overall process and whether abutters are notified. They advised the Board that not all abutters are notified on each request when they review or make a recommendation; they can consider notifying abutters in the future.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the following traffic/parking control requests from the Fairhaven Police Department for a No Parking Sign on Ash Street at the Intersection of Adams Street; a No Left Turn on Bridge Street at exit of 240 Bridge Street; and a Handicap (HP) Parking Only Sign on 41 Hedge Street. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Consider Creation of a Fairhaven Tourism Committee

Jennifer Cardoza addressed the Board regarding the proposed creation of a Fairhaven Tourism Committee (*Attachment A*). The Towns of Middleborough and Wareham have similar committees for similar events. She has not connected with the Economic Development Committee (EDC) at this time and said this committee's focus would be on events versus business growth and the ribbon cuttings that EDC does.

Discussion with the Board ensued regarding further research on roles and responsibilities, balancing Town resources, whether there are other current committees that have an interest in undertaking promoting the Town and engaging in discussion with the EDC. Cristina Lopes of Bernese Street addressed the Board via Zoom in support of a tourism committee being a group to help other groups come together due to the loss of Discover Fairhaven. Ms. Kuechler, liaison to EDC, was in support of further research and discussion. The Board asked Ms. Cardoza to research the other towns and bring the request back to the Board at a later date.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to table item C4. Ms. Kuechler seconded, motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Use of Auditorium Request: Millicent Library, October 22, 2026 for an Author Talk event

The Board reviewed the request and the additional details provided after the Board received their packet (*Attachment B*). Custodian and A/V fees would apply.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve the use of the Town Hall Auditorium by the Millicent Library on October 22, 2026 contingent upon payment of the custodian and audio-visual fees and in accordance with the Town's policy as outlined in the application. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Review Open Volunteer Opportunities

Mr. Romano read the list from the Board's packet (*Attachment C*). Recent resignations were from the Cultural Council: Catherine Teves and Donna Criscione. The website will be updated to reflect updates after tonight's meeting. Mr. Romano added that the reappointment meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 14, 2026 with a deadline for applications on Thursday, October 8, 2026 at noon, all spots are open and the boards will be taken in alphabetical order by board name, there are no set times.

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 (AFSCME-Highway; and Atlas Tack) AND to return to open session. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Select Board adjourned to Executive Session from 6:51PM to 7:42PM

Mr. Romano called Open Session to order at 7:42PM

ACTION / DISCUSSION

Consider Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees: Highway (AFSCME)

Public Works Superintendent Vinnie Furtado addressed the Board regarding the requested reclassification under the AFSCME contract for Highway. Criteria would be set and certifications required to promote to a Grade 9. The Board clarified that all Town vehicles are first serviced by Public Works, Mr. Furtado said this provides a savings to the Town for parts and labor charges when service is through an outside garage.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve establishing a Senior Mechanic position to be placed Grade 9 of the existing wage scale. Further, to create a Senior Working Foreman position to be placed in Grade 10 of the existing wage scale. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to take Action Item E3 out of order. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Discussion on a Holding a Regional Meeting to Discuss Solutions to Wastewater Issues Impacting Fairhaven and Other South Coast Communities

Mr. Hickey and Mr. Trapilo met with Jamie Ponte from the City of New Bedford regarding processes and costs associated with CSO in New Bedford Harbor and the City's process and cost for wastewater treatment and disposal. South Coast communities are facing increased costs for disposal. Fairhaven is looking to start a conversation with other South Coast communities and Mr. Hickey asked the Board to authorize him to work with a Select Board representative and Public Works representative to explore solutions and engage the state.

Mr. Furtado provided a brief background on the process for wastewater treatment and potential changes in 2029 with the disposal location/facility. Exploring regional efforts could be an opportunity to join with other communities as a "larger customer." Mr. Trapilo told the Board that after attending the meeting with Mr. Ponte in New Bedford, he recommends no longer pursuing a letter about CSO in New Bedford Harbor and look to the regional efforts on wastewater treatment disposal from Wareham to Westport. The Board's consensus was to collaborate with other cities and towns and have Mr. Trapilo contact local legislators to organize a meeting.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve Select Board member Trapilo to contact Senator Montigny and Representative Sylvia seeking their assistance to set a meeting of South Coast elected and appointed officials to discuss working together to address the cost to dispose of wastewater. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Discussion on Draft Local Aid Letter

The Board did not receive an updated letter from Mr. Trapilo for discussion. Mr. Trapilo referred to the Board tabling this to the fall and will provide an updated draft for the next meeting. Looking at advocacy and resources from the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) was recommended and Mr. Hickey will share his discussion with the MMA with Mr. Trapilo.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to table Action Item E2. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Consider Proposal to transition Correspondence from the Select Board agenda to the Town's website

The Board reviewed the proposal and memo (*Attachment D*). Correspondence to the Board remains a public record and online makes it accessible in a central location.

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to approve to transition Board correspondence from the Select Board agenda to the Town website, providing a central location for access to the public. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Erin Carr of Marina Drive in Mattapoisett addressed the Board via Zoom and asked for the Board to consider keeping correspondence in the Board's packet as well as online.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hickey reviewed his report (*Attachment E*). He confirmed the Budget Working Group selected Ken Blanchard as Chair, Dan Lopes as Vice Chair and Kevin Gallagher as Clerk. The appeal for Rogers School was held, next step is to wait for a decision.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS / COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Saunders had no reports, Marine Resource's meeting was cancelled

Ms. Kuechler:

- EDC meets this week
- She asked for a status of a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and the School Committee. Mr. Hickey confirmed he has contacted the Superintendent and coordinating is in progress. Ms. Kuechler said the School Committee Chair told her they are early in their budget stages and open to meeting.

Ms. Mello:

- Attended the Commission on Disability meeting
- Historical Commission met, a consultant is being paid from Community Preservation Funds to do an inventory of Town properties to present at a future meeting
- Will be attending the West Island meeting this week
- SRTA meets September 24, 2026

Mr. Trapilo:

- Thanked Mr. Hickey for the meeting with Mr. Ponte in New Bedford
- SRPEDD will have a gala dinner next week to announce the commissioners, Mark Sylvia will be a guest speaker
- Mr. Trapilo thanked the Board for supporting the Budget Working Group; he is impressed with the quality people who stepped forward to present new ideas for long-term health and vitality to the Town and thanked Mr. Hickey for his presentation and sharing the Dedham Budget Working Groups information.

Mr. Romano:

- Sustainability has a costume swap box at Town Hall and other Town buildings
- The Library Trustees meet tomorrow
- Belonging Committee meets in October
- He suggested the Board consider disbanding the Dog Park Study Committee, they have not met due to no quorum. Also, there are no funds for a project and Public Works has been tasked with an overall study on parks. Suggestion made to add to a future agenda.
- Office hours was another success, most of the discussion was on traffic on Route 6 and the turn off Mill Road and the turn off near East Fairhaven Schools. Those concerns will be forwarded to the proper areas. There were questions about how the Board makes appointments and questions about the appointment process.
- Mr. Romano reminded Board members to send department requests to Mr. Hickey to facilitate the connection or to him to assist with coordinating, this will help avoid confusion on where requests are coming from.

Ms. Mello asked for a future agenda item on AI and about whether the Town has policies on AI. She will forward the questions to Mr. Hickey and Mr. Romano.

MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Open Session minutes of August 24, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the Executive Session minutes of August 24, 2026. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Email: More Towns pause, terminate Flock agreements; Office of the Attorney General: OML 2026-112

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to accept the accept the correspondence listed on the agenda. Ms. Kuechler seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be on **Monday, September 28, 2026** at 6:00pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Saunders motioned to enter executive session pursuant 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 (ABCC RE: Fourth and Long Inc. d/b/a Rasputin's Tavern) AND not to return to open session. Ms. Kuechler seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Saunders, Ms. Kuechler, Mr. Trapilo, Ms. Mello and Mr. Romano in favor, motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

The Select Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:33pm, not to return to Open Session

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Fairhaven Tourism Committee Presentation
- B. Millicent Library flyer for October 22, 2026
- C. Open Volunteer Opportunities from the Town's website
- D. Memo Regarding Select Board Correspondence
- E. Town Administrator Report
- F. Correspondence: as listed on the agenda for September 14, 2026

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

Accepted on __