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Neighborhood News

A **FREE!** publication of all things Fairhaven



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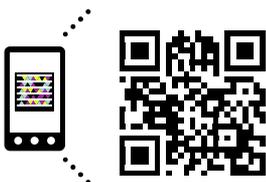
Volume 16, Issue 10 • March 4, 2021

Teeming with information you need.
(And some you don't need, but will be glad you have anyway.)

Rogers School proposal faces public scrutiny



The Residences at the Rogers School proposed by Lanagan & Co. and Arch Communities shows a refurbished park area on the south side of the Rogers School property that the town of Fairhaven is looking to sell. The proposal calls for 62 units, a new four-story building, and 79 parking spaces. The public weighed in at a meeting on 3/1/21. See page 12 for story. ABOVE: An architect's rendering from the proposal shows the park and new building on the south side. *Artist's rendering from submitted proposal.*



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Judge Murray Gurfein, Pentagon Papers case, June 17, 1971:

"The security of the Nation is not at the ramparts alone. Security also lies in the value of our free institutions. A cantankerous press, an obstinate press, a ubiquitous press must be suffered by those in authority in order to preserve the even greater values of freedom of expression and the right of the people to know."

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

Here we go...we're getting into the final stretch of local elections. Candidate statements start this week. And, we start with the Selectboard race...and we have a race! Lisa Plante is challenging incumbent Bob Espindola. See page 18 for their statements.

The Rogers re-use discussion got off to an energetic start this week. The new proposal was bounced around by the neighbors (see page 12). It looks like no one wants a big apartment complex in the neighborhood.

But, no one seems to have the desire to tear down the building, either. Something's gotta give.

I understand not wanted an extra 100 or so people in the neighborhood. And I understand people want to keep the building. But, let's face it, that building is a mess. If Henry Huttleston Rogers were alive today, he'd be the first one tearing it down.

Mr. Espindola is right when he says we don't know if we can or cannot afford the \$2 million (about) that it would take to demolish the building. If we wanted to do it, we could. Hell, we just spent \$1.2 million on turf for a bunch of kids to toss a ball around.

My vote would be to get rid of that old building, make a nice parking lot for public parking and/or to rent to Our Lady's Haven to ease the parking woes in that neighborhood. And then fix up that playground. It could be the best one we have. Its a huge piece of property right in the middle of a dense neighborhood. It's already a gem, thanks to volunteers, imagine if we sank some real money into it?

HHR was all about the new shiny thing and looking ahead and modernizing things. Let's think about what he would do. This is not the magnificent Fairhaven High School, or our Town Hall that looks like a Disney castle, or the Millicent that is just...the Millicent. This is the Rogers School building. Yeah, it's kind of cool, but it's not he Castle on the Hill, or...the other one.

There's other great stuff in here, of course. As you flip the pages, please note who our advertisers are so you can tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

Until next week then...see ya

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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Thursday, March 4, 2021

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In last week's issue, we made a couple of errors in our story about the Bask ribbon cutting. The company opened its medical marijuana dispensary three years ago, nearly to the day of opening the recreational side. Walk-in counter service began on 2/25 with Phase 2. We apologize for any confusion our errors may have caused.

COVID-19 update: capacity limits lifted for restaurants

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker lifted some restrictions on businesses in the state effective 3/1, moving the state into Phase 3, Step 2 of the reopening plan. Hospitalizations and deaths in Massachusetts due to COVID-19 continue to trend downward, but officials caution that vigilance with mitigation, such as mask wearing and frequent hand washing, should continue.

As of 3/1, restaurants no longer have a capacity limit, but restrictions on seating are still in place, such as tables being six feet apart.

Entertainment venues, such as concert halls and other performance spaces are allowed to open at 50% capacity with a 500-person maximum.

Gyms, offices, museums, guided tours, and other similar businesses may open with certain restrictions, including: wearing masks; 50% capacity limit, or 10 persons per 1,000 sf, excluding staff; six feet of space between work areas or partitions; markings to show six feet of distance.

Phase 3, Step 2 also includes roller

skating rinks, trampolines, obstacle courses, laser tag.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/resource/reopening-sector-specific-protocols-and-best-practices> for detailed guidance on specific businesses.

The state is on track to move to Phase 4 on 3/22.

The state is still preferring mass vaccination sites instead of smaller vaccination clinics.

The former Circuit City in Dartmouth is now open for vaccinations. Individuals 65 and older, and people with 2+ certain medical conditions, and residents and staff of low income and affordable senior housing are available to receive the vaccine. Medical conditions include cancer, kidney disease, COPD, Down Syndrome, heart conditions, obesity, smoking, diabetes, asthma. Visit

In addition to the mass vaccination sites, some pharmacies also have the vaccine.

To schedule an appointment, visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>. Individuals without access to the internet or who are unable to

schedule their appointment online can call toll free 2-1-1 or (877) 211-6277 for assistance.

On 3/1/21, there were 980 new, confirmed cases in Mass., bringing the total to 551,667 cases; 28,867 active cases. There were 37 new, confirmed deaths, bringing the total to 15,859 in the state. There were 775 COVID-19 patients in the hospital; 187 patients in the ICU; and 116 intubated.

As of 2/25/21, Acushnet was still in the red zone, with 61 new cases, for a total of 1138 confirmed cases, and a 6.4% positivity rate.

Fairhaven dropped to the yellow zone, with 69 new cases, for a total of 1730 cases, and a positivity rate of 3.45%.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/> to find data on all the municipalities in Massachusetts.

The "Weekly Public Health Report," which has detailed data on towns, is updated weekly on Thursdays.

As of March 2, Mass. had administered 1,813,992 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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BPW discusses budget cuts; beach for residents only this year

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 2/22 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed the rules and regulations at Town Beach, upcoming budget cuts to BPW services.

BPW Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said he had no problem with the current draft of the beach rules and regulations, but he did have a question about kids on bikes riding to Town Beach. He asked if they would be allowed to go into the beach if they do not have a beach pass with them.

BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado said they would be allowed in as long as their family member has a season pass. Mr. Furtado said the kids will have to give a name and address of someone that has a season pass upon entering the beach and the gate attendant will have a sheet of season pass holders to verify.

Mr. Hobson suggested allowing kids under 16 years old to get in for free.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton said it would get too complicated and that children under 10 years old need to be with an adult to enter the beach anyway. He said he felt like the age was actually too low, and that he would not want his 10 year old son going riding his bike to the beach with no adult accompanying him.

"When I was 10-16 years old my parents didn't care where I was," Mr. Hobson said laughing.

Board member Cameron Durant joined the meeting via Zoom and verified that the Town Beach rules only applied to the lifeguarded side of the beach and that there would be signs at Town Beach stating the rules.

Mr. Furtado agreed and said the Town Beach rules and regulations would be given to residents upon purchasing their beach permits, as well as posted online/on the town website and on signage at Town Beach too.

Mr. Furtado asked the board to confirm whether they would like to allow Acushnet residents to use Town Beach this year.

Mr. Hobson suggested the possibility of only allowing Acushnet

In another matter Mr. Furtado informed the board of upcoming budget cuts. He said the town would be cutting the budget on BPW office supplies, as well as cutting \$30,000 from the Highway Department's vehicle repair budget.

Mr. Wotton said that was unacceptable. He said the Highway Department does not have the money to repair vehicles, they cannot do work.

Mr. Furtado said that the town cut the vehicle repair budget by 50%, which is huge and not feasible. He said he took that budget cut and decided to cut the money from roadway items instead because they need that money to repair vehicles. He took the cut of \$30,000 out of the roadway items because he would rather not have the money to resurface a road than not have the money to fix a truck that is critical.

"This shit isn't going to fly around here," Mr. Wotton said. "Sorry for the language, that's not the right way to say it, but it's the truth."

"The town wants to spend money and pay people \$100,000 a day to do nothing around town and this is what happens," Mr. Wotton said.

Mr. Wotton explained that the Highway Department will have broken vehicles and will not be able to respond when a water main breaks in the middle of the winter and there is ice everywhere. The Highway Department will not have money to make repairs to help fix potholes in the middle of the roads.

"Hit the only department around town that actually does work and gets stuff done," Mr. Wotton said. "It's

BPW: cont'd on page 22

Mr. Wotton explained that Fairhaven residents voted on a Facebook survey that they would prefer to have Town Beach with residents only this year until Covid-19 restrictions end.

families whose children attend Fairhaven Public Schools.

Mr. Wotton explained that Fairhaven residents voted on a Facebook survey that they would prefer to have Town Beach with residents only this year until Covid-19 restrictions end. He said that the town residents said they would rather pay more for beach permit fees to keep the beach residents only.

The board voted unanimously to approve of the Town Beach rules and regulations which included only allowing Fairhaven residents to use the town beach.

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Permits Online

The Fairhaven Building Department will be going online on March 1, 2021 and will no longer be accepting paper applications. There will be a kiosk in the Building Department for those without a computer who would like to apply at the Town Hall. Visit <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/building-department>

Please contact the Building Department at 508-979-4023 ext. 7.

Rec Ctr Closed

Repairs are currently being done at the Fairhaven Recreation Center to fix damages caused by a burst pipe. There will be limited phone access during the construction. The answering machine will be on and someone will return your phone call as quickly as possible, (508) 993-9269. You may also email any questions to Recreation Director Warren Rensehausen at wrensehausen@fairhaven-ma.gov

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

B-WET

NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program 2021-2022 funding competition is now open!

B-WET funds locally relevant, authentic experiential learning for K-12 audiences through Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). MWEEs are multi-stage activities that include learning both outdoors and in the classroom and aim to increase understanding and stewardship of watersheds and

related ocean, coastal, riverine, estuarine, and Great Lakes ecosystems.

New England B-WET focuses on the priorities and challenges facing New England watersheds by helping students and teachers apply scientific methods and tools to understand and appreciate their local watershed system. The New England region includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. B-WET encourages students to become more interested in science, technology, engineering, and math. By focusing on watersheds where they live and by participating in personally relevant stewardship projects, students and teachers can become knowledgeable stewards of their local environment.

To learn more about this year's priorities and to apply visit <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov>

Applications accepted until 4/1/21.

Dollars for Scholars

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars announces nearly 20 scholarships now available for 2021. Application period is open until April 20, 2021.

Create profile/apply online at <https://fairhaven.dollarsforscholars.org>

NEW scholarships are being added constantly. Check your profile weekly to see what NEW scholarships you qualify for both at the local and national level. Scholarships are awarded for a variety of reasons, including academics, sports, community service, chosen major, and more.

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars chapter is a nonprofit foundation that

supports academic success in our community. As part of Scholarship America's national network of locally based, volunteer-driven Dollars for Scholars chapters, our mission is to mobilize our community on behalf of postsecondary education success for our students.

At the Millicent

The Millicent Library is excited to announce virtual programs!

Take Home Craft Story Time: Looking for a craft to keep your kiddo busy with creativity? Pick one up from the library! Fill out our online form at MillicentLibrary.org. All supplies are included, best for ages 3-8. For more information contact Youth Services Librarian Allie Thiel at 508-992-5342, extension 112 or email athiel@sailsinc.org.

Chess Basics: Caught up in "The Queen's Gambit" hype and want to learn chess? Join Nolan DeMott on Wed., 3/17, at 7:00 as he takes you on the beginning of your chess journey. Learn the basics of chess, as well as fundamental chess principles. This one-time session will get you started on what you need to know in order to start playing chess and checkmating your opponents.

The Millicent Library has a limited number of chess sets available to check out for Fairhaven residents. These game sets can be checked out on the SAILS online catalog at www.sailsinc.org by searching for "classic chess." You can also call or email the library at 508-992-5342, Millicent@SailsInc.org.

Advanced registration is required at millicentlibrary.org/events.

Sustainability Comm. acknowledges Wampanoag history

Press Release

On February 16, 2021, the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee shared a Fairhaven Land Acknowledgement statement during their meeting. It was read by member Deirdre Healy, who wrote and shared it with the committee.

"The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee acknowledges Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the land, and the enduring relationship that exists between them and their traditional territories. The land on which we sit is the traditional unceded territory of the Wampanoag Nation. We acknowledge the painful

history of genocide and forced occupation of their territory, and we honor and respect the many diverse indigenous people connected to this land on which we gather from time immemorial."

This land acknowledgement will be part of opening all future meetings of the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee and we hope that other committees will follow our lead. Our committee feels it is imperative to recognize and continually support and advocate for the sovereignty of the Native nations in this territory and beyond.

We recognize the land as an expression of gratitude and appreciation. It is important for each of us to understand the long-standing history that has brought us to reside on the land and to seek to understand our place within that history. By offering this land acknowledgement, we affirm tribal sovereignty and will work on different ways that we can educate our community, hold ourselves accountable to the First Nations and their people, and support the Wampanoag Nation.

For any questions please contact ann.richard@gmail.com 508-287-2831.

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VFW Kitchen reopens under new management

The Fairhaven VFW Kitchen has reopened under new management. Steve Correa, who has cooked at local establishments for more than 40 years, has taken over. Mr. Correa is known for his seafood specials and steak dinners.

His cooking career includes stints in a variety of venues, most notably bar/restaurant establishments in Greater New Bedford.

He says you'll get all the specialties, quality, and variety you expect from him if you know his

cooking. If you don't, then get over to the VFW, 101 Middle Street, Fairhaven to sample it.

Hours are Thursday through Sunday, noon to 10 p.m. Eat in or take out. Call 508-997-1701.



LEFT Steve Correa has a smile on his face as he drops seafood into the oil on 2/28/21 at the Fairhaven VFW Kitchen, which he now manages. RIGHT: Steve's hands are a blur as he prepares two dinner plates. Photos by Beth David.

Obituary



Evelyn Midura
9/21/47-
2/13/2021

Evelyn Midura passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends whom she loved, on February

13, 2021, following a nine year battle with Ovarian cancer.

Evelyn's friend, Sandy Holmes, wrote, "Evelyn was a creative person

who always thought of others more than of herself. Evelyn belonged to several knitting groups and was a member of the Red Hats Society.

Evelyn used her creative talents to beautify the world through her lovely garden and the plethora of hats, mittens, sweaters, and scarfs she made and donated to those in need.

Evelyn loved music. She sang in the St. Mary's choir and played a variety of musical instruments. She made beautifully creative greeting cards which I shall always treasure. Evelyn took me places I'd never otherwise have seen. She was a good friend and generous beyond all measure. She will be sorely missed and gratefully remembered."

Evelyn grew up in New Bedford and

earned her BS in Accounting. She designed computer programs for several years before retiring. Evelyn is predeceased by her parents, John and Catherine Midura and her sister, Valerie Rollins. She is survived by her two sisters, Rosemary Pazer and Nancy Midura, her nephews, Peter (Lisa) Pazer and Jeffrey (Angela) Pazer, her niece, Jessica (Dan) Denisi and a grandniece, Eva Pazer and grandnephew, Alexander Pazer.

Memorial contributions may be made to ovarian cancer research or charity of choice.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

The family would like to thank Southcoast Hospice and all those who helped Evelyn.

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Free Food Boxes

The New Bedford Police Department is partnering with the Mass. Military Support Foundation (MMSF) and New Life Church to provide FREE FOOD BOXES to New Bedford residents. The Farmers to Families Food Boxes contain 32 pounds of perishable and nonperishable food items including fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and meat products.

Distribution will be on Saturdays: Mar. 6, 13, 20, April 3, from 10 a.m.–Noon, at New Life Church (behind the church), 1331 Cove Rd. his program will be held once a week for the foreseeable future.

COVID-19 health guidelines will be followed.

Families must register by visiting <https://mmsfi.org/farmers-to-families/> (and scroll down to find New Bedford). For information, please contact Sargent Samuel Ortega of the New Bedford Police Department at Samuel.ortega@newbedfordpd.com or 774-510-0649.

LGBTQ Film Series

The New Bedford LGBTQ Winter Film Series returns in 2021 in a new virtual format. The event is made possible by funding and support from Mass Humanities.

This year, fans are asked to watch the films prior to joining a Zoom conversation moderated by members of the Film Series. The movies are available either through online streaming platforms or on DVDs available at the New Bedford Free Public Library with a SAILS library card (call in advance to reserve).

- Sun., 3/14 at 3 p.m. *Tucked* (2018) is a raw, heartfelt drama about Jackie, an aging 80-year-old drag queen, and her unlikely friendship with a younger queen Faith. They both struggle with gender and, along the way, they realize how to truly be themselves.

For more information about The New Bedford LGBTQ Winter Film Series and to access the Zoom links, follow the organization on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nblgbtqfilmseries/events/> or visit The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network at <https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org/winter-film-series.html>

Winter Jazz Fest

New Bedford Winter JazzFest: ONLINE! Featuring:

- Fri., 3/5, 7:30 p.m., Marcus Four
- Sat., 3/6, 7:30 p.m., Zinno Garzone & Barata
- Sun. Jazz Brunch, 3/7, 11 a.m., Svetlana & The New York Collective

Three bands, three days, musician interviews, food and drink videos and it's all

FREE/Donate what you can. Register at <https://yourtheatre.org/yti/index.php>. Full lineup and info at www.NewBedfordJazzFest.com

Donation packs available. Pay any amount, get VIP demand access; donate \$50+, also get official JazzFest wear, calendar and more; donate \$100+, get all that plus Jazz CD pack.

At the Fishing Ctr

The following events take place at the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, 35 Bethel St., New Bedford. For more info visit: <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/programs/calendar/> or call 508-993-8894.

Women's Work

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center launches its new project, *Women's Work: At Sea, On Shore, At Home, In the Community*, this March with two public programs. This project will shine a light on the many roles women play in commercial fishing communities.

On Thursday, March 11th at 7:00pm the Center will host a virtual concert and presentation, *Women and the Sea*, by musician Debra Cowan. This program offers an engaging and informative look at the often overlooked and varied roles and experiences of women and the sea through the lens of Maritime songs and ballads. Debra emphasizes that women can overcome adversity and in some of these songs and stories, take charge and win the day. The program will be live-streamed on the Center's Facebook page, [facebook.com/NBFishingHeritageCenter](https://www.facebook.com/NBFishingHeritageCenter).

On Friday, March 19th, the Center's Virtual Dock-u-mentaries series continues with a screening of the film, *Women in the Fishing Industry in Point Judith* by filmmaker Markham Starr. As with other traditional industries throughout the country, tightening

labor markets and a dwindling supply of men willing to commit to heavy work has created opportunities for women. This film follows a handful of women now working in the industry through a typical day on deck or on the factory floor.

Learn more about these programs on the Center's online calendar, fishingheritagecenter.org/programs/calendar. Programs are free and open to the public.

Women's Work is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Women's Fisheries Network, the Mass Cultural Council, and the Westport and Mattapoisett Cultural Councils. *Women's Work* will use the arts of photography, film, music, poetry, and storytelling to highlight the often-untold stories of women in commercial fishing communities. From March through December 2021, public programs and an exhibit will engage visitors in exploring the lives, skills, and experiences of women who work in the fishing industry as well as those who are connected through family. The Center will partner with Our Sisters School, Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School, Global Learning Charter Public High School, and the YWCA to engage young people in this project.

Please contact programs@fishingheritagecenter.org with any questions.

Black Lives Matter mural

New Bedford debuts Black Lives Matter mural on Union Street downtown. Public art can be found all across downtown New Bedford, complete with murals celebrating the city's abolitionist past and sculptures showcasing the city's maritime history throughout its parks and waterfront.

Adding to the scene is a new piece on Union St., assembled by a coalition of community members and organizations. Hand-painted with its letters standing 4 feet tall, a new Black Lives Matter mural was organized by Tanisha Ferrer, 29, who will graduate this summer from the pre-law program at Fisher College.

Acushnet COVID testing

We are very pleased to announce a regular schedule of Covid testing in Acushnet.

- Fridays from 10 a.m.–noon in the parking lot behind the Council on Aging (59 South Main Street) using our trailer (see page 12)
- Saturdays from 9 a.m.–noon at the elementary school gym

This schedule will be used through the end of February and may be delayed or cancelled due to possible snow/weather conditions. We will post updates during the week on our Facebook page/Acushnet Fire & EMS.

Bikes for All

We are thrilled that the long-awaited Mattapoissett Rail Trail connection to Depot Street is opening this year. To celebrate, Mattapoissett Recreation (MATTREC) and the Friends of the Mattapoissett Bicycle and Recreational Path (the Friends) have teamed up to ensure that every Mattapoissett resident/family has an opportunity to fully enjoy it. This new initiative is called Bikes for All. We are asking for donations of gently used bicycles, children's sizes with training wheels to adult 26" bikes, to be given to any town resident in need of a bike. Any outgrown children's bicycle may also be traded in for a larger bike.

So, take a look in the corners of your garage/basement or shed. Is there an unused bike that is taking up space? If so, dust it off and call at Jane at MATTREC (508-758-4548) for pickup.

During this time of increased demand, higher prices and waiting lists for new bicycles, recycling unused bikes is one way to make Mattapoissett Rail Trail accessible to all town residents!

If you are handy and have some knowledge of bicycles, we'd love you to join us in our quest! We will be refurbishing the gently used bikes and are in need of volunteers who have the knowledge to help make this happen. If interested, please call Jane at 508-758-4548.

If you would like to make a donation to help the Friends purchase/repair bicycles, please make your checks out to: Friends of the Mattapoissett Bike Path, PO Box

1336, Mattapoissett, MA 02739. Please specify on your check that your contribution is for Bikes for All.

The Friends is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, so contributions to the Friends for Bikes for All are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Friends will apply 100% of contributions toward the bicycles.

Contact Jane Finnerty 508-758-4548 JANE.MATTRAIL@gmail.com and Liz DiCarlo, 508-942-9343, lizdicarlo@comcast.net for more info or visit our Website: mattapoissettrail.org.

Black History/ Women's History Meet Dorothy Height

On August 28th, 1963, Dr. Dorothy Height took a seat on the speaker stage at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. She was surrounded by most of the famous civil rights activists. Although she was not scheduled to give remarks, Height had rightfully gained her place among these prominent leaders.

Visit <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/dorothy-height>

Striped Bass Hearings

The Atlantic coastal states of Maine through Virginia have scheduled their virtual hearings to gather public input on the Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Amendment 7 Public Information Document (PID).

Visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8168283291056270608> to register

New Hampshire, Mon, Mar 8, 2021 from 6-8pm; Maine, Tues, Mar 9, 2021 from 6-8pm; Virginia, Wed, Mar 10, 2021 from 6-8pm; Potomac River Fisheries Commission, Mon, Mar 15, 2021 from 6-8pm; Delaware, Tues, Mar 16, 2021 from 6-8pm; Rhode Island, Wed, Mar 17, 2021 from 6-8pm; Massachusetts, Thurs, Mar 18, 2021 from 6-8pm; Maryland, Mon, Mar 22, 2021 from 6-8pm; New York, Tues, Mar 23, 2021 from 6-8pm; Connecticut, Wed, Mar 24, 2021 from 6-8pm; New Jersey, Thurs, Mar 25, from 6-8pm

The Commission will also post a recording of the hearing presentation on the Commission's YouTube page

(<https://www.youtube.com/user/ASMFCvideos>) so that stakeholders may watch the presentation and submit comment at any time during the comment process. This recording will be available by March 1, 2021.

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board will meet at the Commission's 2021 Spring Meeting in May to consider public comment and provide direction to staff for items to be included in Draft Amendment 7.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Fluke/Scup/Black Sea Bass Comments

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are developing this joint amendment to consider adjusting the allocations of catch or landings between the commercial and recreational fisheries for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The amendment also considers options that would allow a portion of the allowable landings to be transferred between the commercial and recreational sectors each year.

Written comments may be submitted through March 16, 2021 by any of the following methods: Online at <https://www.mafmc.org/comments/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment>; Email to kdancy@mafmc.org; mail or fax to Dr. Christopher Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901, FAX: 302.674.5399

Please include "Fluke/Scup/Sea Bass Allocation Amendment" in the subject line if using email or fax, or on the outside of the envelope if submitting written comments.

For additional information and updates, please visit: <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment>.

Additional background information and related documents are available on the action page for this amendment: https://www.mafmc.org/actions/sfsbsb-allocation-amendment?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Recipe of the Week

Cranberry Pumpkin Bread

2 large eggs, slightly beaten
2 cups sugar
1/2 cup oil
1 can pumpkin
2 1/2 cups flour
1 tbsp pumpkin pie spice
1 tbsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup Craisins

Combine eggs, sugar, oil and pumpkin, mix well. Combine flour, pie spice, baking soda and salt in a large bowl. Make well in center; put pumpkin mixture into well; stir, just until dry ingredients are moistened. Stir in Craisins.

Pour batter into two greased foil loaf pans.

Bake in 350° oven for 1 hour.

Submitted by Cathy Daniels

To share a recipe with your neighbors

Mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax to 508-991-5580; email to neighbnews@comcast.net (Email preferred)

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how much I had changed. It seemed as we turned a page, my face and paws got grayer and grayer. I exaggerate saying every page, but that's what it felt like to me. There was no denying that I was no longer that black and shiny-haired lab that I once was, back in the day.

I wondered if you thought it was a good idea for me to start using that stuff my mom puts on her hair to make it dark and shiny?

Worried, Finn

Dear Finn,

Dogs, like people, deal with aging in different ways. I'm assuming you understand that you don't have a hair problem and that gray hair is the result of you getting on in years. If having a black muzzle and paws would make you feel better about yourself, then do it.

You might check with your vet to

Dear Frankie

Coming to Terms with Aging

Dear Frankie,
I am a ten-year-old black lab. The other day, my mom and I looked at pictures of me from when I was a puppy until now. It never occurred to me

see if there is a hair dye specifically made for dogs. And, of course, you will need to get your mom's permission. If she agrees, you might think of dyeing your hair together on the same night. It could be one of your special times together.

Before you forge ahead, though, I suggest you take some time to live with the new you — an older distinguished lab. I gather from your letter, the realization that your hair had turned gray came as a bit of a shock. If that's the case, it's best to hold off on making a hasty decision. It's never wise to act when agitated or in doubt. I feel after careful consideration, whatever decision you make, it will be the right one.

Best, Frankie

Best, Frankie

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Frankie is an eight-year-old schnauzer poodle and a rescue. She is a certified emotional support animal for a single retired educator.

Letters and comments can be sent to dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com. The column is available through the Fairhaven Neighborhood News. Readers can request a free subscription, by emailing Neighbnews@comcast.net and asking to be put on the email list; or visit www.neighbnews.com to read online or download the latest issue.

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Dispatches

News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha



Special to the Neighb News

If there's one thing I've learned from being Class President these past few months it's that fundraising, especially during a pandemic, is quite difficult.

I've also learned that with a supportive community and some advertising, success is achievable, and many of our recent fundraisers at the high school have proven just that.

When I and the other class officers were selected, we had no idea how we would fundraise with all of the restrictions placed on us.

We weren't able to plan any in-person events which limited us to very few ideas, but we knew we had to do something. Something different. Something more innovative.

With this in mind, we planned around the COVID circumstances and came up with several ideas to help the community and fundraise for our school.

We wanted to be able to plan things that were helpful to our school and to our local Fairhaven community all while abiding by COVID rules.

Although we could not create or participate in events such as car washes, dine-in fundraisers, or Holiday Bazaars at the town hall, we were able to improvise and find ways

to utilize what our community has to offer to our advantage.

For instance, our junior class is holding a shoe drive that donates shoes to a company that gives the shoes to those in need while sharing a certain amount of money to the class for every pair brought in.

Our sophomore class has been promoting safety during the pandemic along with school spirit by selling Blue Devil face masks.

Another fantastic idea that the class officers have come up with is the idea of a takeout fundraiser that not only promotes local restaurants but raises money for the hosting class as well.

The senior class just recently held

Although fundraising during such an odd year like this one has thrown us through several challenges, it has also led to some pretty incredible things.

different restaurants until reaching one that would follow through.

Many of these aforementioned restaurants said it plain and simple that they could not help us because they were barely surviving after COVID hit.

While this is understandable and actually extremely upsetting that our local businesses are suffering so much, it made this fundraising process that much more complicated, having to come up with new ideas and trying to find someone that was able to work with us.

The Class of 2024 and I were so lucky to be able to partner up with Captain's Place for they were genuinely so kind and helpful throughout the whole process. We were able to raise \$700 from our fundraiser, including donations.

Although fundraising during such an odd year like this one has thrown us through several challenges, it has also led to some pretty incredible things. The FHS classes have started to look at fundraising not only as a way to gain, but also to give back. By shedding some light on those in need and locals that are looking for extra customers, we have been able to help out a lot.

If you get anything from this article I hope that it's the urgency to support local businesses!

We've all been affected during the pandemic, but I encourage you to pay it forward to the locals that continue to push through this pandemic for their customers like Captain's Place.

If you'd like to make a donation to one of the classes, please mail or bring in a check/cash to Fairhaven High School, 12 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven, MA 02719



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Rogers School proposal unveiled, public weighs in

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Residents had the chance to ask questions and voice concerns about the latest proposal for preserving and developing the Rogers School on March 1 during a public forum-style Fairhaven Selectboard meeting with developers and members of the Rogers School Re-Use Committee.

Jason Lanagan of Lanagan & Co. Inc. and Rich Relich of Arch Communities, LLC addressed questions and emphasized their willingness to work with residents on designing a plan that the public could support; however, despite their answers, almost all the residents who participated that night concluded their communication with a definitive statement of opposition to the project.

Mr. Lanagan said he reached out to the town six months ago to gauge its interest in his and Mr. Relich's proposal, "And that was welcomed with open arms."

Over the course of their development analysis, he said, he shared his findings with the Re-Use Committee.

Project Size and Feasibility

Mr. Lanagan compared his study's findings with a third-party market and feasibility study the town funded several years ago that found a 100-unit housing project to be an economically viable proposal to save Rogers School.

"In looking at that, we knew that that would be too much," said Mr. Lanagan. "[That] would definitely take up the entire site, eat up all the green space, and would be too big for the neighborhood."

He said they would have liked to go with even fewer units, but that would

require scaling back on the quality of the building materials and would not sustain long-term maintenance and professional property management. He noted that saving the school building will be expensive, so the project needs to be large enough.

Parking and Traffic

Parking overflow onto the street was a top concern, Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas said, referring to the slew of emails he received from concerned residents.

Mr. Lanagan said parking would be part of the compromise he is willing to negotiate, but adding further on-site parking spots would decrease the remaining green space while increasing asphalted surfaces, affecting the aesthetics, especially on Center Street.

Mr. Relich said the town would require at least 68 parking spots, but in response to resident feedback, they increased it to 79. One space per unit would be allocated for each of the 56 one-bedroom apartments, two for the six two-bedroom units. Mr. Relich said seniors often do not own a vehicle. In that case, apartments with multiple vehicles could be accommodated with an extra parking spot.

Resident and member of the Re-Use Committee Doug Brady took issue with the "massive overflow" of parking onto the surrounding streets and cited a prior Town Meeting vote providing a "preservation allowance" to reduce the parking requirement at the site to allow for "building this stuff" outside regular parking requirements. The design, he said, would also eliminate the baseball diamond to provide parking. The roads are too narrow for two-sided parking, he added, creating a public safety concern.

Theresa Fletcher said there was "no way" there could be enough parking for both visitors and residents, and insisted there would be a "steady flow of traffic."

Andrew Marshall insisted that 62 units could mean 100 cars with an additional 40 parking along the street. He lives on Chestnut Street

near Our Lady's Haven (OLH) and said parking is certainly an issue, especially before the pandemic.

Mr. Lanagan, who lives across the street from Mr. Marshall agreed that parking is a concern and would be "worked out in great detail."

"There are solutions to parking [but] we don't have them today," said Mr. Lanagan. "It's impossible for us to solve those problems definitely at this stage, but we're certainly aware of them, and we certainly want to address them..."

He said the Site Plan Review with the Planning Board would nail down parking, but off-street parking would require a compromise on green space.

"People do not want to see the Rogers School turned into a parking lot," said Mr. Lanagan, adding that a parking study and traffic study will be done as part of the permitting process.

Selectboard member Keith Silvia agreed about the difficulty of a traffic study at this stage.

"It comes down, basically, it's pretty simple: it's numbers," said Mr. Silvia. "These men are in business and they have to have these [62] units to make it work, and that, basically, it's plain and simple. But the neighbors have their voice, and we have to listen to [them] too and try and keep everybody happy."

Mr. Relich said the project is 90% one-bedroom units for seniors: "It's probably the lowest-impact use you could come up with."

55+ "Senior" affordable housing

In response to various questions, Mr. Lanagan confirmed that the age would be restricted to a minimum of 55, but grandchildren under legal guardianship could be considered allowable. Income guidelines would be between 30-60% of the median income for all but a small number of units, which would be rented at market value. A deed restriction would carry the age requirement in perpetuity.

All tenants will be screened by a professional and undergo credit and criminal background checks, reference checks, and CORI checks.

Funding

In response to questions, Mr. Relich described the mix of funding sources from the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Affordable Housing Trust funds, and said the rest would be funded by conventional financing and equity investment. No funds would come from the federal Department of Housing and

ROGERS: cont'd next page



An architect's rendering from The Residences at the Rogers School in Fairhaven, proposed by Lanagan & Co. and Arch Communities, shows the proposed building from the corner of Center and Chestnut Street. *Artist's rendering from submitted proposal.*

Rogers School proposal from previous

Urban Development. In order to avoid a lengthy process, the project would not seek funding through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The project would be seeking \$250,000 in Community Preservation Act money from the town, which would need Town Meeting approval.

Mr. Brady stated that the Community Preservation Committee had already made it clear that it would not be giving any CPA funding to the project.

"We've yet to receive any correspondence from the CPC stating that they would not give us any money," said Mr. Lanagan. "So perhaps you know something that we don't."

Building Design

The project will follow the Secretary of the Commonwealth Chapter 40C policy for establishing historic districts, although the following those guidelines would be voluntary because they are not seeking related funding.

The public's design preference could be accommodated, said Mr. Lanagan, such as with façade materials like cedar shingles, and called for a committee of residents with design and historical experience to assist the developer.

Mr. Freitas interrupted to add, "I think people are more concerned that we're going to throw up a cement slab ... and it's just not going to be — look like that type of area..."

The developers confirmed that renovated windows and doors would reflect the historical style in the old school, but explained why it would not be built to look original.

"It comes down to cost," said Mr. Lanagan, "but it also comes down to ... [how] folks like to see an addition look different from the initial structure."

The addition should look different yet historical in essence and complement or blend into the original structure.

Developer Experience and Integrity

"Our experience is in working in historic districts," said Mr. Lanagan, and they would follow 40C guidelines whether tax credits are involved or not. He said he owns 250 affordable units in seven buildings. Both developers stated that they have never walked away or not completed a project. Resident Kathryne Moniz asked to put documentation in place to avoid any eventual changes, which Mr. Freitas said the town could prior to selling the property.

Water/Sewer Utility Concerns

Any water or sewer line upgrades to

accommodate the 62 units would be the responsibility of the developer. Mandated testing and analysis would determine the scope of utility upgrades surrounding the site.

Green Space Versus Project Footprint/Height

Mr. Marshall said the playground is a "pretty sensitive matter" for the residents, and Mr. Lanagan said renovating and maintaining the green space has been the plan since the beginning.

Ms. Estrella asked if the developer could prevent the community from being cast into a shadow "tunnel" from the height of the addition.

The footprint, Mr. Lanagan said, would fit over the existing school addition and "doesn't take up the entire site by any means."

He also said the building had to be four stories in order to provide 62 units and not occupy the entire site. The roof

If you want to build that
kind of a project, then
I say find another place
[Doug Brady]

height does not exceed the original school.

Ms. Fletcher called it an "enormous building," and Mr. Brady said the height would "black out the entire block" and it would be "sun out" for abutting homes.

"If you want to build that kind of a project, then I say find another place," said Mr. Brady.

Impact on Community

Mr. Freitas said that a senior housing development would likely increase the demand for emergency response services, especially medical.

Resident David Roy shared the concern, saying, "It's going to tax" emergency response departments..

"Like it or not," said Mr. Roy. "The town will have to foot the bill..."

Mr. Relich noted that the 55+ housing is not like a nursing home, and most people, when they start requiring more medical services, usually move.

Selectboard member Bob Espindola suggested seeking input from the fire and police chiefs, recalling similar

concerns with the Oxford School development.

Resident Stacey Burr worried about property values decreasing and asked about the communities where they have built affordable housing.

"That's an impossible question to answer," said Mr. Lanagan. "But historically, based on my experience, housing projects like this do not hurt housing values."

He pointed to a similar development in Padanaram, saying that property values there are currently higher than they have ever been.

Resident Elizabeth Delano asked about the proposal encompassing a lot she identified as #68 and not included in the RFP. She asked if it is common practice for an RFP response to include the use of a lot not identified. Mr. Freitas said the board would have to search for that information, and Mr. Espindola asked Interim Town Administrator Wendy Graves for her input. Mr. Freitas intervened on her behalf and said Ms. Graves could be reached later at Town Hall, and then she would respond.

Resident Karen Vilandry said the proposal was "far too big" and "half a dozen" residents could own motorcycles.

"No one can tell me that property values are not going to decrease as a result of this monstrous building that visually impairs people because you don't have a good site over there," said Ms. Vilandry. "It's not a good idea. I strongly oppose this building at this site."

Next Steps

Mr. Silvia, the board's representative on the Re-Use Committee, said that when he met with the developers at the site weeks ago, "Right away, I knew that they know what they're doing."

He called Mr. Lanagan and Mr. Relich "a class act" and commented that they were trying to make concessions while still meeting the feasibility number.

Still, 62 units was "a little bit too big" for Mr. Silvia, and all the "give and take" will not be enough to make the project feasible, he said.

He said he did not want to approve the project in vain and have the developers waste their money, but the board must make a decision either to sell the site or keep paying to mothball the school building.

Mr. Espindola said he understood

ROGERS: cont'd on page 21

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Fairhaven Council on Aging

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NMLS # 422864

Acushnet approves next steps for Delta Realty service station

By Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet Selectboard held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 23, to hear public comment and have discussion on the fuel storage license for Delta Realty for 35,000 gallons on 166-168 Main Street.

The application for the license is for the storage of two (2) underground fuel storage tanks, one (1) 20,000-gallon gasoline and one (1) 15,000 compartmentalized 6,000 premium gasoline and 9,000 diesel fuel. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Carolyn Parker, representing Delta Realty explained that there had been a gas station at the same location twenty something years ago and there was once a license, but the license could not be located so they were told to complete the process in its entirety to apply for a new license.

She stated the tanks would be double walled with vapor recovery and everything that is required by the regulations. The Fire Department has signed off and it is a pretty straightforward project, she said.

Chairperson Kevin Gaspar read a letter for the record from Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher saying everything is in "proper order and the Fire Department had no objection."

Ms. Parker explained that once the tanks are in the ground the Fire Department issues a "flammable and combustible permit" and then a registration is issued by the Town Clerk.

Board member David Wojnar stated he had heard some concerns from citizens in the immediate area.

Board member, Dave Desroches stated they were there to issue a Land Use License and hear issues only on that license. He said they should discuss other concerns through the Zoning Board of Appeals and/or the Planning Board.

Mr. Gaspar agreed that the only discussion was for the Land Use License, and they need to stay on topic. He said they should not be discussing the aesthetics of the building or anything else.

Resident Dave Davignon spoke for himself as a resident and also stated

he represents an immediate abutter, Pat Liberty, who lives across the street.

Mr. Davignon stated he was not opposed to the project as the property has been an eyesore for many years. His concern was that the proposed development needed to be vetted and done properly.

Mr. Davignon asked if the land use license allows the developer to put the tanks anywhere on the property or does it have to be according to the plans.

Mr. Gaspar responded that before the Selectboard were clearly defined plans of where the tanks will be going and that the Selectboard will be approving or not approving based on the location of the tanks set forth on the plans before them.

Mr. Desroches stated what he had read from the regulations set forth in the land use license regulation is that "If the condition/capacities are changed, the process would need to start again."

He stated he had seen two sets of

ACUSH: cont'd next page

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ACUSH: cont'd from previous page

plans where the tanks will be located, and they are in the same spot on both plans. He said he will be making his decision based on where the tanks are located on said set of approved Planning Board plans.

Mr. Davignon stated he felt that it was premature to approve the land use license without proper vetting. He said he believed the lack of parking on the site violates a zoning by-law and with that in mind the tanks may have to be moved.

Abutter Josh Desroches of 168 Main Street, stated he was speaking on behalf of his wife and himself, who have concerns on the location of the tanks and would not want them moved any closer to his property.

Mr. Gaspar stated they are approving the plans before them to exactly where the tanks will be going on the property. If the plans change to be closer to the property lines, he said, than yes, he would also be concerned. He said if the tanks must be moved in the future because of a site review or for any reason, the Selectboard has a right to revoke the license.

Mr. Wojnar stated he was of the opinion that the Selectboard should be the last step in the process, after Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals and that was why he had concerns.

Mr. Desroches explained that he spoke to Town Counsel directly and the there was no determination of

who goes first in reference to ZBA or the Planning Board or the Selectboard's determination. He said someone needs to go first and move this forward.

Mr. Wojnar stated he would be more comfortable with continuing the hearing until he could hear the input of citizens to the Planning Board and the ZBA. He said he was in support of the project but thought they may be putting the "horse before the cart".

"If Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals approve then I can see us approving after those two boards. I would like to see the final, final plans before us," Mr. Wojnar said.

Gary Hathaway, who owns Scuttlebutts in Acushnet stated he was of the opinion that the Selectboard should allow the Planning Board to do their job on the site review and then issue all the licenses.

Mr. Desroches stated he would like to "just reiterate again, we are here to discuss the storage of fuel tanks on this property," adding he understood there were concerns of other boards, but he wanted to make sure they do not miss the mark.

Mr. Gaspar noted that it was a gas station previously and the Selectboard has every right to issue the license with any conditions they so choose.

"We can issue the license pending site plan approval," he said.

Again, Mr. Wojnar said he thought

if they continued the hearing after the site plan review, they could minimize the risk of the developer having to start over.

"I respectfully request the board to vote on the land use license tonight and we are okay with any special conditions you seek necessary," said Mickey Higgins, who owns the property, adding that he understood if the plans change significantly they will absolutely go back.

Prior to making the vote, Mr. Wojnar asked for a list of the contingencies they were considering. He said he knew pending the site review would be one of them.

Mr. Wojnar also said that he would "prefer to hold off but understands the scope we are in tonight."

Mr. Gaspar stated the contingency would be the site plan approval. He said he understood the notion of which board would go first. He also said he shared concerns about where the tanks will go, but also that the board had plans before them that allow them to approve exactly where the tanks are going.

"Since I've been the lead agitator," Mr. Wojnar said. "I'd be willing to move off the delaying with special conditions put forth."

The Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Land Use License for the storage of the fuel tanks contingent on a site plan review and no change to the location of the tanks per the plans submitted.

From our readers

Grassroots Efforts Bring Pickleball to Fairhaven

Fairhaven. It was Fall of 2019 when a group of Fairhavenites got together at the home of Joyce and Ken Pottel to investigate the creation of a local pickleball court.

A state plan was already in the works to build courts at Fort Phoenix, but efforts to construct were met with obstacles. So the group came up with Plan B. Looking at the tennis courts at Cushman Park as a possible site, members donated monies to pay for new blue pickleball lines while leaving the original tennis lines. Bungee cords to lower the tennis nets and dozens of yellow pickleballs were purchased.

Little did they know how popular

the game would become locally. The ambitious group formed the Fairhaven Pickleball Association and soon had over 50 members. An interactive website was created enabling members to sign up for playing times. Over the summer Ken Pottel held training clinics for beginners. This past winter, diehard members shoveled snow off the courts to play their favorite sport.

The game originated in 1965 by Joel Pritchard and Bill Bell in the state of Washington after a golf outing. To amuse their family, they used a wiffleball and ping pong paddles on an old badminton court. The wiffleball bounced well on their asphalt court but they realized the net needed to be lowered to 36".

The name pickleball was named after the Pritchard's dog, Pickle, who would chase the ball. Just as the pair had created a new game, due to the ingenuity of a group of Fairhavenites, an old tennis court turned into a venue for many to enjoy pickleball.

This Spring drop by to join in the fun!

Debra Almeida, Fairhaven

New Idea Part 5

NEW YEAR, NEW IDEA (Part 5):

One of the frustrations expressed to me by many Fairhaven residents is the process by which the Board of Health allows, or doesn't allow, public comment during public meetings.

The rules are jumbled due to Covid

LETTERS: cont'd on page 19

Candidate Statements: Fairhaven Selectboard



Bob Espindola

I am running for another term as your Selectman because many of you have encouraged me to. I have enjoyed having been entrusted with your confidence for the past three terms. I take this job very seriously and I work hard for you. You see, I believe the job of Selectman should be much more

than attending Selectmen meetings and I also believe that strong leadership starts with listening. I am proud of my record as a Selectman for Fairhaven.

Here are some examples of how I have listened and taken action:

DOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW. Early on I listened to concerns about financial reserves and I advocated for a free Financial Management review by the Department of Revenue. Recommendations that came out of that review resulted in the Town running five-year projections for revenues and expenses, establishing a formal Capital Planning process, establishing Financial Management Policies from which substantial reserves were built that are now carrying us through the impact of COVID-19.

EMPHASIS ON GRANTS. I listened to budget concerns and did research on grant opportunities. I have personally had a hand in initiating and writing grants or in passing along grant opportunities I had researched to Town Administration to follow through on. Throughout my years as a Selectman, the grant applications I have been involved with have yielded over \$1.0 Million. Many of these grants bring about efficiency improvements that will continue to pay dividends year after year (and long after I am a Selectmen) covering areas like Economic Development, IT Consolidation, Improved Energy Efficiency, Solar Installations. Other grants will make our roadways safer and more user friendly for pedestrians and cyclists. I advocated for the Town Administrator to place a focus on grant opportunities and Mr. Rees worked to ensure that all Department Heads research grant opportunities and report, annually, on their accomplishments. Thanks to the hard work of a very dedicated Town Staff, in FY2020 alone the Town received over 34 grants for a total of \$1.1.

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. I learned that the Town had been collecting franchise fees from Comcast for over 10 years without providing the services those fees were meant for. This resulted in accumulated funds of over \$1M that can only be spent for those types of services. I advocated for reforming the CAC and helped negotiate a contract with Comcast that resulted in nearly \$200K in funds to invest in the build-out of a Fiber Optic network connecting all Town Facilities. This resulted in greatly improved internet capacity, better security and will save the town six figures annually.

I proposed a Bylaw that requires the Town to record all meetings, and these meetings are now aired on a very

CAND: cont'd on page 21



Lisa Plante

My name is Lisa Plante and I'm proud to be running for the office of Selectman. I have lived in Fairhaven for 51 years, I left for 1 year in 1991 and was back before the year was over. I Love this town and can't imagine ever living anywhere else. I have three children and a granddaughter. My son

Robert graduated from FHS in 2009 and is now a Bio Engineer. My daughter Kayla graduated FHS In 2020 and plans to attend college in the fall. My youngest daughter Kristen graduates this year from FHS and my granddaughter Lillian attends Leroy L Wood School.

I am running for Selectman because I truly love this Town and want to do everything in my power to serve the people that live here. I will be your voice!! When talking to people one of the biggest concerns was not feeling like they had a voice outside of town meeting. I want to work with the seated Selectman to have a time allotted at the Selectboard meeting for one precinct a month to come forward with concerns, problems, even criticisms. This would give each precinct two visits between town meetings. I think this will bring people together and help get a better understanding of what needs to be done to make Fairhaven the best possible place now and in the future.

I currently serve on the Finance Committee as the Vice Chair. I have served for almost 10 years now and I have knowledge of the town finances as a whole and the budgets of every department which is what we focus on primarily. I work very well with the members of our committee and I have had the pleasure of working with all of the department heads and the selectmen while preparing for town meeting every year. Before joining the Finance Committee I served on the Commission on Disability. I have been a long time town meeting member and served the community by volunteering in the School System for many years.

I am ready and eager to continue serving the town and bringing something new to the office of Selectman. I have always been fiscally conservative and have made every decision based on what is best for the town. The job of Selectman is a privilege, it is not about power or ego it is about service to the townspeople. I will work hard for the people of Fairhaven and would appreciate your vote on election day. **I WILL BE YOUR VOICE.**

Thank you Beth David and The *Fairhaven Neighborhood News* for this opportunity.

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No one does local like a local newspaper. We cover events right here in your back yard. Any small amount will help. Just send check or money order to *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Ask for a bumper sticker that says "I Support the *Neighb News*." And thank you for reading *the little paper with a big voice*.

LETTERS: cont'd from page 17

guidelines but one thing is pretty clear, the Chairman wields considerable power over who gets to speak, when they can to speak and for how long they may speak.

Fairhaven seems to be a "tale of two committees."

The School Committee places an item on its agenda, setting aside time for public comment.

I've talked with Fairhaven and Acushnet school officials who explain that this is a long standing tradition which provides the public the opportunity to address the Committee directly on agenda topics within a prescribed period of time (3 minutes seems to be the cap). The theory, I believe, is that parents are so closely tied to the education of their children that direct input fosters a more unified and cooperative sense of mission. Committee members benefit from the input and residents benefit from the ability to take an active role in the education of their children.

The Board of Health, however, doesn't include an item for public comment.

I would argue that the same need to hear from the public exists for the Board of Health, particularly during the GREATEST PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY of our lifetime. People are worried, scared, concerned, perplexed, anxious, and about a dozen other adjectives that I can't recall quickly enough.

The best public policy is shaped by an informed public. Residents feel that their voices are heard only if elected officials listen. Public officials listen only if they try.

New idea: Let's establish a "Public Comment" agenda item for all Board of Health meetings! It can be structured similar to the regular opportunity provided by the School Committee. Time limits and agenda restrictions can be established. Decorum must be maintained and if residents understand that time is carved out regularly for their input, I am sure the good people of Fairhaven will cooperate.

The more I campaign the more I come to the conclusion that something in town broke between those who are elected and those who elected them. This one small modification, a simple agenda item, could go a very long way to tending to those wounds.

*Kevin Gallagher, Candidate,
Board of Health*

Town Administrator Hiring Process Failure

Fairhaven: Are you paying attention to what's happening nowadays? Town Administrator is a highly skilled professional position critical to the operation of any town. To be effective this role needs to be qualified, impartial and free from political influence. Hiring our next Town Administrator is arguably one of the

most important responsibilities of our Selectboard; and they are completely botching it.

First Mr. Freitas appoints himself to the screening committee against all professional guidance and past precedent. Then after the board interviews the three highly qualified candidates, Mr. Espindola is ready to follow the proper procedure and vote. Instead, Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia move to ignore the qualified candidates and vote to interview an underqualified candidate who the screening committee voted not to move forward.

To me this looks underhanded and an intentional snub of the screening process they themselves voted to create and follow. Now we have nothing. This is outrageous and unacceptable. If Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia can't salvage this, they need to resign or be removed from office. Fairhaven can't afford this level of ineptitude and favoritism, and we as voters shouldn't allow it to continue.

Phil Washko, Fairhaven

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Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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Fairhaven Planning Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 6:30 pm
Banquet Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct two Public Hearings at 6:30 PM on Tuesday March 23, 2021, remotely and from Town Hall. The Planning Board Meeting will be conducted remotely for the public and will be televised live on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and fairhaventv.com. To Join the Meeting from home Log on to:

<https://zoom.us/j/92222560167?pwd=T0pnSHpmajRlNUdTeGVUVV1dTdEh6dz09>
or Telephone 1-929-205-6099;
Meeting ID: 922 2256 0167; Password: 934287

1. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following *Definitive Subdivision* application: 1) **DS 2021-03-Beach Street Masse**, a proposal for a one-lot subdivision. The applicants, Daniel E. and Jillian A. Masse, are requesting approval through the *Definitive Subdivision* review process to develop an unaccepted paper street to create frontage to build a house. The location is Map 19 Lot 19 (35,025 square feet) on Beach Street between Alpine and Newbury Streets.

2. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following *Definitive Subdivision* application: 1) **DS21-02-Hermeneau Frederick Avenue**, a proposal for a one-lot subdivision. The applicants, Steven M. & Sandra J. Hermeneau, are requesting approval through the *Definitive Subdivision* review process to develop what is currently an unaccepted paper street to connect to an undersized lot which they feel is "grandfathered" in order to build a house. The location is Map 29A Lots 168 and 169 (10,000 square feet between 2 lots) on a paper road listed as Frederick Avenue off of Sconticut Neck Road in Fairhaven.

A copy of the applications are on file at the Department of Planning and Economic Development, Town Hall. To make an appointment call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 122 or email pfoley@fairhaven-ma.gov.

For information on the project go to: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/current-permits-being-reviewed-special-permits-definitive-subdivisions>

John Farrell Jr., *Chairman of the Planning Board*
 FNN: 3/4/21, 3/11/21

Fairhaven Planning Board Vacancy

The Fairhaven Planning Board has a vacancy following the recent resignation of one of the eight members. The Planning Board and Select Board will hold a joint Hearing on March 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm to choose one Fairhaven resident to serve on the Planning Board until the 2021 Town Election. Letters of interest may be mailed or dropped off at Town Clerk's office in Town Hall with attention to the Planning Officer, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 by March 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. or emailed to pfoley@fairhaven-ma.gov

The Planning Board is responsible for the review of development applications for subdivisions and special permits, as well as long-range planning for the Town including Zoning Bylaw amendments, plans such as the Master Plan and recommendations on housing. The Board also sends representatives to other town committees, such as the Community Preservation Committee and the Economic Development Committee. Anyone interested in serving on the Planning Board should submit a letter of interest to the Town Clerk by **March 5, 2021**.

FNN: 2/25/21, 3/4/21

Acushnet Planning Commission

Acushnet Planning Commission
Notice of Zoom Public Hearings
March 18, 2021 – 6:30 pm

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Planning Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. on March 18, 2021 to hear the following applications:

- 1. Site Plan Review, 158 Main St., 166 Main St., and 17 Wing Rd. Acushnet, MA. At 6:45 p.m.,** the application proposed by Delta Realty, LLC (site owner) and New England Retail Development, LLC (proposed site operator) for Site Plan Review concerning property at 158 Main Street, 166 Main Street and 17 Wing Road. The proposal is for a 3,995 square foot gas station and convenience store within the Business Village District.
- 2. Site Plan Review and Solar Special Permit, 14-47 Park Drive Acushnet MA. At 7:35 pm** via Zoom Meetings in accordance with Acushnet General Bylaws, Zoning Article VIII, Sections 3.4 and 3.5, and the Acushnet Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Article III, Section 313, to process an application for a site plan review and a special permit for a 7.5 MW solar array proposed by Syncarpha Park Drive LLC. The engineer is Weston & Sampson.

3. **Site Plan Review and Solar Special Permit, 1052 Main Street, Acushnet MA. At 8:00 pm** via Zoom Meetings in accordance with Acushnet General Bylaws, Zoning Article VIII, Sections 3.4 and 3.5, and the Acushnet Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Article III, Section 313, to process an application for a site plan review and a special permit for a 1 MW solar array proposed by Woodridge Renewables, LLC. The engineer is SITEC, Inc.

4. **Site Plan Review and Solar Special Permit, Cushing Lane – Assessors Map 7 – Lot 26, Acushnet MA. At 8:25 pm** via Zoom Meetings in accordance with Acushnet General Bylaws, Zoning Article VIII, Sections 3.4 and 3.5, and the Acushnet Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Article III, Section 313, to process an application for a site plan review and a special permit for a 2 MW solar array proposed by White's Farm, Inc. The engineer is SITEC, Inc.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84483138468?pwd=YVZ2OGFBQmpMRm1tUFBkNllpeno4dz09>

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Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84483138468?pwd=YVZ2OGFBQmpMRm1tUFBkNllpeno4dz09>

The plans and accompanying documentation for the above hearings are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office by appointment only, Parting Ways Building, 130 Main St. 1st Floor.

Marc Cenerizio, Chairman

FNN: 3/4/21, 3/11/21

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WANTED TO BUY

WANTED TO BUY in Fairhaven: 2+BR/2+Bath house, 1,250-2,250 sq. ft. If you have plans to sell in the next 2-4 months, we'd love a heads up. Would consider mixed use property. We are not investors. Looking to relocate. No agents, please (already have one). Thanks! ajj108@yahoo.com

CAND: cont'd from page 18

timely basis on Cable TV. People can now watch any meeting at their own leisure and from anyplace where they have internet service.

BROADBAND STUDY COMMITTEE. I listened to complaints about high Cable rates, poor service and lack of competition and advocated to form a Broadband Study Committee. We now have a completed Feasibility study, RFP for the Design/Build cost of a fiber network which will provide accurate, hard numbers for a potential project build out.

If I am elected to serve another 3 years, you can expect more listening, learning, action and accomplishments. I'm hoping to have your vote on Monday, April 5th.

Thank you.

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FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE State approved for Mass. license to carry firearms or FID card. Call Phil Lacerda, 508-989-6093.

ROGERS: cont'd from page 13

why residents opposed the project, and thus far in the process, he said, "I think this is telling us that this is not going to be an ideal situation."

However, if the town does not opt for the project it has to do something with the site.

He said they had to think of the alternatives and their impacts on the town. He noted the School Department had planned to spend \$7.4 million on the Tripp School, but that plan will not happen.

"I don't see why we can't put it into the Rogers School," said Mr. Silvia.

"That's exactly my point about context," said Mr. Espindola, adding that the assumption is that the town cannot afford to convert the Rogers School into a park. "But the thing is, it's a matter of choice."

Demolition of the building is estimated at \$1.5-2 million.

Mr. Freitas said no decision had to be made that night but lamented leaving the developers "hanging in a lurch."

Before adjourning, Mr. Espindola asked Mr. Freitas for an update on the progress toward hiring a town administrator in light of Ms. Graves issuing a Cease and Desist Order to Mr. Espindola for alleged defamatory remarks.

"Is there anything you can share with us at this time?" Mr. Espindola asked.

"No," is all that Mr. Freitas replied.

In a follow-up email Mr. Freitas told the *Neighb News* that the board would be rescheduling Ms. Graves's interview for TA after its March 8 meeting. When asked about the meeting that he said on 2/23 he would be holding with town counsel and hiring consultant Bernie Lynch, he replied that the meeting had not taken place.

"My schedule has been very full," said Mr. Freitas.

To see the latest revision of the plans, visit https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3131/f/uploads/residences_at_the_rogers_school_plans_3d_sketches.pdf

Upcoming Meetings

In-person attendance is restricted during the COVID-19 crisis. The information on how to join remotely is listed on the agendas. Most meetings also run live on the government access channels, and Fairhaven meetings are livestreamed at FairhavenTV.com

Visit <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov> for remote access information

Fairhaven

Bikeway Committee

Wed., 3/10, Remote, 7 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 3/2, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Assessors

Tues., 3/9, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Tues., 3/9, Arsene St., 6:15 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 3/8, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30 p.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 3/4, Remote, 7 p.m.

Thurs., 3/11, Remote, 7 p.m.

Marine Resources

Wed., 3/10, Town Hall/Remote, 6 p.

Planning Board

Tues., 3/9, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

School Committee

Wed., 3/10, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 3/8, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30 p

Acushnet

Housing Authority/ Proposed annual plan

Wed., 3/17, Remote, 11:30 a.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 3/18, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

US Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal/Piney Point/Wing's Neck

	Mar. 2021	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	4	1157	----	0458*	1708*
Friday	5	0030	1257	0603	1812*
Saturday	6	0129	1357	0731	1929
Sunday	7	0230	1502	0950	2055
Monday	8	0338	1615	1109	2310
Tuesday	9	0446	1716	----	1203*
Wednesday	10	0540	1804	0008	1251*
Thursday	11	0624	1846	0100	1338*
Friday	12	0705	1927	0149	1416*

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft
**Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

BPW: cont'd from page 4

boloney...pay attention to where your money is going.”

“Who’s making these decisions,” Mr. Wotton asked.

Mr. Furtado said the budget cuts come from Town Hall.

Mr. Furtado said they also cut the Park Department budget down by \$4000. They would just hire one fewer employee this year.

Mr. Wotton said that when Town Hall needs their grass cut then they should not cut it.

“The Park Department lost 50% of its budget because the old Town Administrator left us in a shitshow,” Mr. Wotton said. “I feel bad for this poor girl filling in... she has to deal with the cards that were handed to her and she didn’t put them there.”

Mr. Wotton said he felt sorry that the interim Town Administrator has to deal with the mess that Mark Rees left behind.

Mr. Wotton said he would love to see the whole budget and he is sure that he could find a lot of better ways to cut money in town rather than cut BPW’s essential services.

He suggested they should think

about cutting the Town Administrator’s salary before they hire someone for the position.

Mr. Wotton told Mr. Furtado that when Town Hall needs their grass cut or needs something done to start saying “no.” Mr. Wotton said they should cut their BPW services for Town Hall by 50%.

“I’m sick of it and residents in town are sick of it,” Mr. Wotton said. “The guy (Mark Rees) screwed us... everyone wants to talk about what a great person he is and throw him a big freaking parade, but I’ll tell you what... Mark Rees, you screwed us... you left us with a shithole budget here and walked away and gave that poor girl something to cut down to nothing and make her look bad.”

“She didn’t do this,” Mr. Wotton said. “This is on you Mark Rees... hope you’re still in town watching this.”

“Calm down,” Mr. Hobson said. “I like it,” Board member Marcus Ferro said.

“I can’t wait to see him (Mark Rees),” Mr. Wotton said. “I got high blood pressure, I don’t care... seriously this is ridiculous.”

“You go to calm down,” Mr. Hobson said “You’re pulling a Hoppy,” Mr. Hobson said laughing. “I understand,” but this is on TV.”

In another matter Mr. Hobson asked Mr. Furtado for an update on what was happening with the BPW taking over the Tree Department.

Mr. Furtado said the Selectboard met with the Tree Warden and said they would look at the whole process and revamp it, but they did not submit an article for the next Town Meeting.

Mr. Hobson said the BPW needs to take over the Tree Department because the BPW already does two thirds of the work and the Tree Warden never answers his phone. He said the town deserves better.

Mr. Wotton said the person running against the current Tree Warden in the April election wants the position to be taken over by the BPW and wants to work under the BPW.

Mr. Hobson said the BPW needs to put in an article for Town Meeting. Mr. Furtado said he would put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

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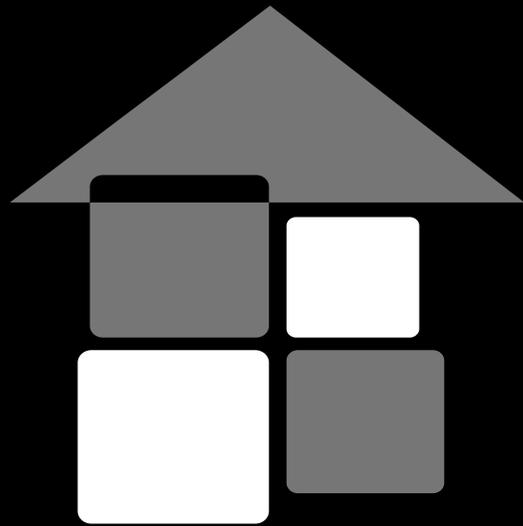




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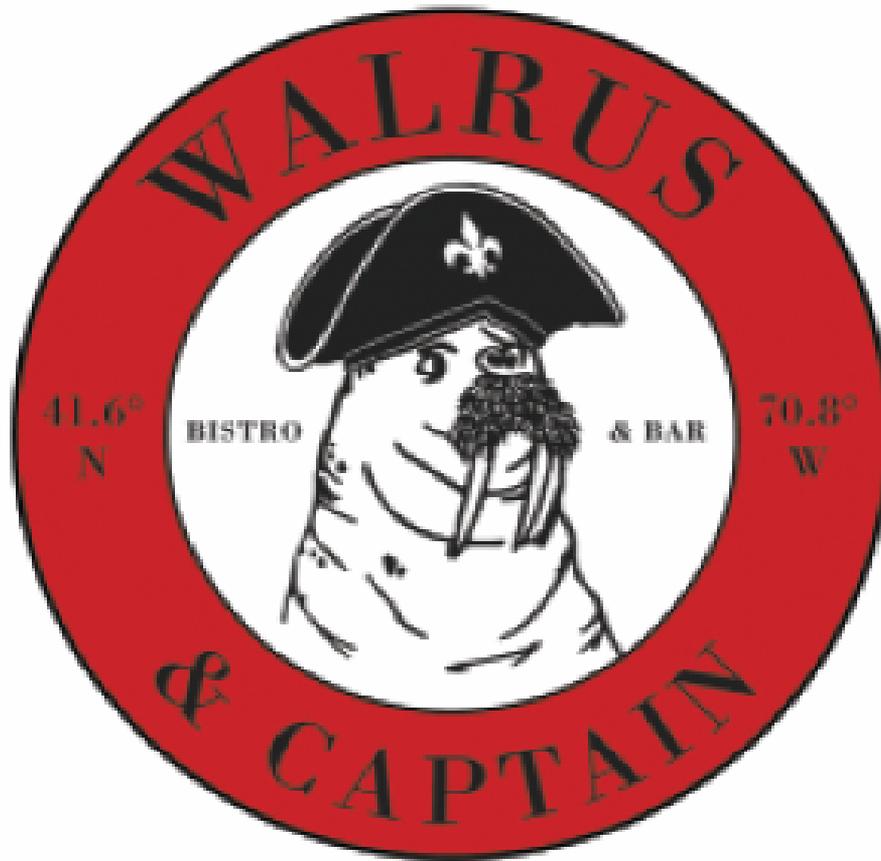
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