



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



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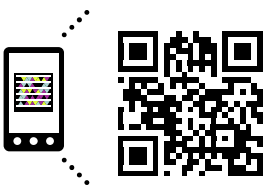
Volume 16, Issue 12 • March 18, 2021

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

## Candidates make their pitches



Fairhaven Government Access TV and the North Fairhaven Improvement Association sponsored a meet the candidates night on Monday, 3/15 at Fairhaven Town Hall. The public was invited to attend remotely. Some candidates joined by Zoom, others attended in person. ABOVE, L-R: Challenger Lisa Plante and incumbent Bob Espindola wait for the cameras to be turned on in the banquet room of Fairhaven Town Hall so they can make their pitches to be elected to the Fairhaven Selectboard on 4/6. Board of Health candidate Kevin Gallagher sits in the back waiting for his turn. See story on page 16. Photo courtesy of Derek Frates, Fairhaven Government Access TV.



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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.

This Zoom thing is really, really, really old. We have another correction, and we again apologize and are being very quick to blame the remote connection.

Okay, onto the shitshow (yup...I used that word again) that is the Selectboard and the Town Administrator hiring process.

Stop blaming the messenger. The Selectboard Chairperson ranted on and on about the newspaper and how it's all our fault because we did what we do. What do we do? We tell people stuff, true stuff, real information-type stuff. We are not responsible if the information is damaging to the person or persons it is about. They shouldn't be doing stuff that will be damaging, then we won't have any stuff to tell people about that will be damaging. See how this goes? It's pretty simple, honestly.

We transcribed Mr. Freitas's entire diatribe and will have it on our website for you to read.

Now, to the substance of the problem.

Mr. Silvia has a conflict of interest because his wife is the Council on Aging Director who reports directly to the TA. Yes, this has been true all along. Did we drop the ball by waiting so long to point it out? Maybe. Honestly, I thought that Mr. Silvia MUST have checked with Town Counsel at the outset, right?

Holy moly, do NOT assume anything about these guys (see page 3).

There is some scuttlebutt that they will try to use the "rule of necessity" to allow Mr. Silvia to vote. Well, you're not supposed to use that rule to break a tie. It's only supposed to be used to make sure that the work gets done. As far as we observed, the work got done: The interview happened, a vote was held. The fact that the votes failed does not trigger the rule of necessity, as far as we can see.

But, then again, we're not lawyers trained to twist the law to our own devices.

Good heavens, "shitshow" doesn't even begin to describe this mess.

No candidate for a job has a constitutional right to be appointed. A vote was taken. It failed. Move on.

We also lost two of the three REAL finalists, they withdrew.

What next you wonder?

Yeah, your guess is as good as mine.

As for all these foolish cryptic, enigmatic and vague references to some dire horror in the background of one of the finalists, tell us what it is already. Stop telling us to Google it. We DID that, for all of them. We are not finding your big secret.

These games are ridiculous, and such an insult to the residents of this town.

We have other stuff in here, of course. Our cover story is the candidates night (see page 16); part one. We will have more of that night next week. BPW on page 24, still entertaining and substantive...oh, how I long for the days when they were the Bozo Board.

Please be sure to notice who our advertisers are and tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

Until next week then...see ya,



Beth David, Publisher

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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## Contents

Acushnet News .....	19
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: Fairhaven School Committee .....	22
Classifieds .....	21
Conflict complicates TA hiring .....	3
COVER: Candidates night .....	16
DaCunha's Dispatches .....	11
Dear Frankie .....	10
Fairhaven BPW .....	24
Fairhaven Selectboard interviews Graves .....	13
Happenings .....	5, 8, 9
Legal Notices/Public Hearings .....	20
Letter from the editor .....	2
Letters from our readers .....	18
Senior Center/Rec. Ctr. ....	14
Tides .....	21
Upcoming meetings/Fairhaven & Acushnet .....	21

## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our Selectboard story last week, we made an error in a quote attributed to board member Bob Espindola. He said that fellow board member Keith Silvia did not disclose his interest in interviewing another candidate until after the other three candidates were interviewed; he did not mention a conflict of interest. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

## Support local journalism

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*.

# Conflict of interest complicates Town Administrator hiring

Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

The status of the town administrator hiring process is uncertain at this point after the disclosure that Fairhaven Selectboard member Keith Silvia has participated in the TA hiring process in apparent violation of the State Ethics Code.

During the Selectboard meeting on 3/11, ahead of the interview of a fourth candidate, Interim Town Administrator and Finance Director/Treasurer/Collector Wendy Graves, whom Mr. Silvia motioned to forward as a candidate beyond the three provided by the appointed TA Screening Committee, Mr. Silvia revealed that he would be recusing himself that night from Ms. Graves's interview.

Mr. Silvia said he had only become aware the night before, on 3/10, that his participation constituted an ethics violation because the TA is the direct supervisor of his wife, Council on Aging Director Anne Silvia.

On 3/10, the *Neighb News* called Mr. Silvia to ask him if he was aware of his apparent conflict of interest, after the *Neighb News* spoke with Gerry Tuoti,

Public Information Officer for the State Ethics Commission. Mr. Tuoti, who would only speak in general terms and not about a specific case, said the general rule would be that the elected official could not take part. He referred to G.L. c. 268A sec. 19 of the State Ethics Code, which outlines the violation, with the only remedy seeming to be recusal from any participation in the process.

Mr. Silvia announced his recusal that night, but before he left the room, he spoke further about his thoughts on the TA hiring process. He said he thought it would be conducted behind closed doors in executive session, and "nobody was supposed to talk about it."

Still, he said, "I heard quite a bit through the neighborhoods about what went on, and I thought it was in very poor taste [and] some stuff put out that wasn't true."

He said the process was "kind of like a headhunting expedition" and that he was dismayed by how one candidate could be brought forward to the screening committee for consideration, "But if you go on Google search,

you find stuff. I'm just curious why that stuff wasn't brought out, either."

"If we're going to play on an even field, let's bring it all out," he said, adding: "I have no nickel in this quarter anymore, but just my suggestion would be, I feel it should be started all over again. I don't think it was a fair process, and that's just my opinion."

Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas wondered aloud whether the discovery, months into the process, could cause a problem for the board.

"So, I don't know if we have to start from the beginning.... We're probably going to have to end up doing that," he said.

Before launching into a pre-written speech, Mr. Freitas said he had "finally had it with this process" with "too many ... untruths."

Then he read from a nearly 1,000 word speech, beginning, "I would like to address some issues that have been falsely put out by some people about the [TA] search. I nominated myself to be on the committee because I had heard some rumors

CONFLICT: cont'd on page 20

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---

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Road Race Canceled

The Fairhaven Father's Day Road Race announced on its Facebook page that the race is canceled again this year.

The post reads: "We are sad to announce that due to the uncertainty of how the pandemic will continue to progress in the coming months and which regulations will be in place, we will not be holding the Father's Day Road Race in 2021. We do plan to continue the racing tradition once it is safe. We value all of our sponsors and supporters who have helped make this a fun and amazing event. Stay tuned!"

## Fairhaven to get Rte. 240 study \$

Sen. Mark Montigny's office announced on 3/9 that the town of Fairhaven will receive a \$75,000 grant to study economic development opportunities in the Route 6/Route 240 area under the state's Site Readiness Program.

The Town of Fairhaven will use this award to fund technical work in support of its Route 6/240 Redevelopment Study, which covers a 300-acre area and more than 150 properties near the interchange of Route 6 and Route 240. The funds will be used for an environmental assessment of barriers to development in the area with a focus on capped landfill.

"Congratulations to town officials for seeking creative opportunities to revive underutilized commercial and industrial areas while preserving the historic character of the community," said Senator Mark Montigny. "This grant will provide early funding to better understand and plan for the various environmental issues that must be addressed in any redevelopment strategy."

More information about the town's project can be found at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-economic-development/pages/route-6240-redevelopment-study>

## Eco Challenge

Fairhaven Sustainability Committee 2021 ECO Challenge JOIN Team Southcoast April 1-30. The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee is sponsoring Team Southcoast in the ECO Challenge outdoor time, in April.

Teams are created and each team member is responsible for tracking their own ECO Challenge activities which include reducing plastic use, saving water, eating vegetarian, planting, increasing time, contacting officials regarding environmental issues, among many other actions.

The following link will explain how the challenge works: <https://ecochallenge.org/ecochallenge-platform/how-it-works/> **Registration runs through the month of March** and the challenge begins in April. If you are interested in participating in this fun challenge, go to <http://bit.ly/EarthMonthEcochallenge> or call the Fairhaven Senior Center, 508-979-4029

## Scam Warning

Don't be a victim to scam! Watch the video below to learn more about the reports that have been filed by Fairhaven residents for scam scenarios and how to avoid falling prey: <https://www.fairhaventv.com/single-post/fairhaven-police-elder-scam-psa>

## Unclaimed Money

The Mass. Treasurer's office has released a new list of unclaimed money. This newly released list includes only individuals and businesses with unclaimed property over \$100. However, Treasurer Goldberg urges all citizens to check the comprehensive list, which includes all amounts at [www.findmassmoney.com](http://www.findmassmoney.com) or call our live call center at 888-344-MASS (6277).

## 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.

## Fhvn Scholarship

A \$1000 scholarship recognizing a graduating Fairhaven-resident high school senior planning to pursue post-secondary education at an accredited institution of higher learning will be awarded by the Fairhaven Historical Society. The scholarship honors Enrique Goytizolo's dedication to preserving the history of the Town of Fairhaven and his vital and long-time leadership role with the Fairhaven Historical Society, a 501C3 organization.

The Enrique Goytizolo Scholarship is open to any graduating high school senior whose primary residence is in Fairhaven, Massachusetts and plans to matriculate to an accredited institution of higher learning in the fall of 2021. **Deadline for scholarship applications is April 1, 2021.**

For more information or a scholarship application contact [historical.societyfairhaven@gmail.com](mailto:historical.societyfairhaven@gmail.com).

## SAVE THE DATES:

**Easter Bunny Drive Through Sat., 4/3 (raindate 4/4), 1 p.m.**

Due to Covid, the North Fairhaven Improvement Association will not be hosting the Easter Egg Hunt this year. However, NFIA will host the Easter Bunny. Come Out to Welcome the Easter Bunny & friends as they drive through town! Beginning and ending at Benoit Square/Oxford School.

Complete route posted soon.

## Pump Track Cleanup

Fairhaven BMX Pump Track spring cleanup, Bernese St., Fairhaven, on Sat., 4/10, 10 a.m. Bring a shovel, no experience necessary. PLEASE wear a mask. 2020 was a bust but looking to bring the good times back to our track. After a year of very little maintenance we could use your help to bring it back to life. No track building experience necessary. Just positive attitudes and a willingness to offer a little good old fashioned manual labor. Please spread the word and hope to see you there.

Find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fairhavenBMXpumptrack/>

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## 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. 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](mailto:Samuel.ortega@newbedfordpd.com) or 774-510-0649.

## Farmers Market

Fans of farmers markets can continue purchasing local food throughout the winter at Coastal Foodshed's New Bedford Winter Farmers' Market. The Market is open every **Saturday from 10am - 2pm at the Buttonwood Park Warming House (1 Oneida St, New Bedford, MA 02740) from now until April 24**

The Winter Market has several vendors offering a variety of local products, including fresh baked breads from Renegades Rising, delicious cookies and hand-pies from Rosie's Sweets, local honey from Buzzards Bay Bee Company, and local potatoes and other vegetables from Sampson Farms.

Coastal Foodshed also sells a great variety of locally grown products sourced from nearby farms and local food makers, including local veggies, eggs, salsa, jam, maple syrup, coffee and more!

There is plenty of parking at the Warming House, and all forms of payment are accepted: cash, Mastercard, Visa, SNAP benefits, and pEBT. All SNAP customers can also earn HIP benefits at the Winter Market when they purchase locally grown produce.

Coastal Foodshed's mission is to strengthen the local food economy by making it easier for growers to sell, and consumers to buy, healthy, affordable, local foods. Coastal Foodshed works to increase public awareness and knowledge of health, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture, and to improve access.

To learn more about Coastal Foodshed and all of the different ways you can shop local, you can visit their website at [coastalfoodshed.org](http://coastalfoodshed.org), or find them on social media at [@coastalfoodshed](https://www.instagram.com/coastalfoodshed).

## NB Herstory

Launched in 2018, the New Bedford Whaling Museum project *Lighting the Way: Historic Women of SouthCoast* explores the historical impact of women from the region. As educators and philanthropists, abolitionists and crusaders for social justice, investors and confectioners, sister sailors and millworkers, women from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds have shaped their SouthCoast communities, the nation, and the world. *Lighting the Way* is unearthing remarkable stories of women's callings that required grit, tenacity, and enduring commitment to their families, careers and communities.

To explore the profiles, visit <https://historicwomensouthcoast.org/profiles/>

## Dock-Umentary

Fri., 3/19, 7:00pm Tune in for the Center's latest Virtual Dock-umentaries event, a discussion about the film *Women in the Fishing Industry in Point Judith* by filmmaker Markham Starr. Starr will be speaking about the documentary and filmmaking process as well as answering audience questions. Visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84928218789#success> to join. We will not be screening the film during the Zoom call and are asking guests to watch the film on their own at <https://vimeo.com/518567018/f3dc97801b>

Contact [programs@fishingheritagecenter.org](mailto:programs@fishingheritagecenter.org) with any questions.

While over the years a few women have successfully worked as commercial fishermen out of Point Judith, RI, the industry has overwhelmingly been dominated by men. As with other traditional industries through-

out the country, tightening labor markets and a dwindling supply of men willing to commit to heavy work has created opportunities for women. This film is part of a larger series documenting the commercial fishery in Point Judith for the Library of Congress.

## Celebrate Black Culture

Sat., 3/20, 7:30 p.m. this concert program features four generations of leading African American composers

We are proud to collaborate with the New Bedford Historical Society to present Celebrating Black Culture. The NBHS is dedicated to documenting and celebrating the history, legacy and presence of African Americans, Cape Verdeans, Native Americans, West Indians and other people of color in New Bedford. In the week leading up to the concert and at the concert itself, the NBSO and the NBHS will present interviews, videos, and other materials on New Bedford's role in the Underground Railroad, the abolition movement, Frederick Douglass' rise to prominence, and the Historical Society's exciting Abolition Row Park project.

Tickets are \$20 per household. Visit <https://nbsymphony.org/celebrating-black-culture/>

## Birds and Music

What does it take for a symphony orchestra's educational program to reach from New Bedford, to as far west as Juneau, Alaska and as far east as Scotland, United Kingdom, and be featured in the National Audubon Magazine and the American Recorder Society's magazine? On March 23, 2021, you can find out when the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra (NBSO) releases its 2021 Learning in Concert virtual program entitled Bird Flight Patterns and Music.

The virtual concert program is accompanied by an extensive online curriculum of music, art, writing, photography and science lessons, activities and educational games with additional musical performances and composer interviews.

V i s i t  
<https://nbsymphony.org/learning-in-concert-online-2020/>

## Acushnet testing

Covid testing in Acushnet:

- Saturdays from 9 a.m.–noon in the parking lot behind the Council on Aging (59 South Main Street) using our trailer. We have witnessed a decline in the Saturday attendance and this change allows us to adjust our staffing level.

We will no longer be testing inside the gym at the Elementary School. We thank the Acushnet School Committee and the School Department for being wonderful hosts.

## Women's History Month with NOAA

In honor of International Women's Day and Women's History Month, we are highlighting some of our colleagues who contribute to NOAA Fisheries' core missions every day. Learn more about them and their careers in science and fisheries management at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/celebrate-womens-history-month-noaa-fisheries>

## Westport Land Hist

The Early Land History of North Westport, 2PM Sat., 3/20

Al Lees, President of the Westport Historical Society, will explore the early settlement of the northerly area of Westport. Using information from early maps and deeds, this program will delve into the little-explored area of North Westport which has a fascinating confluence of stories. Learn more about the ongoing initiative focusing on the history of North Westport and beyond.

To register for Zoom event, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ngn711UJT2\\_nhUC\\_vvlzQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ngn711UJT2_nhUC_vvlzQ)

## Bake Sale

The Our Lady of Purgatory Education Foundation is sponsoring a Bake Sale after the Palm Sunday Weekend Liturgies. Please stop by on Saturday, March 27, after the 4:30 pm Liturgy, or on Sunday, March 28, 2021, after the 10:30 am Liturgy. All proceeds benefit the OLOP Education Foundation Scholarship Fund.

OLOP Maronite Catholic Church, 14 Franklin St. (corner Pleasant), New Bedford.

Since its creation in 1993, the OLOP Education Foundation has awarded 49 Scholarships totaling \$31,500.00. Scholarship Recipients are honored for their service to the Parish, academic achievement, and participation in extracurricular activities at school.

For more information about the Bake Sale, or the OLOP Education Foundation, please contact Fr. Vince at (508) 996-8934

## Mattapoissett Check-In Program

Mattapoissett is special, with its seashores forests and community at large. We have a large number of citizens in their senior years. The COA is exceptional with offering activities and assistance with health care issues. If you need them, they are there.

Mattapoissett has 105 people over 90 years of age right now. They depend on us as we depended on them in the past. We have exceptional police and fire departments and we all depend on them. Whether it is for paramedics or help getting up from a frightening fall, they respond with patience and kindness while preserving the dignity of the person at that time of need. Too often the officers names are not known.

There is a reassurance program in town where the senior calls into the business line of the police department by 10 AM each morning and if not, the police will call them to check on their safety. Applications for this service are available at the COA.

The Friends of Mattapoissett COA want to thank our first responders. We know who you are and appreciate what you do, to help all of us keep our special generation as safe as possible.

Call the COA, 508-758-4110

## Art Exhibit

The Fez as Storyteller, Camille Eskill, Online Exhibition **Open March 22–July 2, 2021.**

**Virtual Artist Lecture:** Camille Eskill, The Fez as Storyteller, **Wed., 3/24, 12:30-1:30 pm.**

The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute is proud to present a solo exhibition by Connecticut-based artist Camille Eskill. "The Fez as Storyteller" explores deeply ingrained gender

biases in cultural and religious practices through the lens of domestic relationships.

Eskill's multimedia sculptures mine two generations of her family's history as Iraqi Jews living in Bombay, India.

Visit <https://www.brandeis.edu/hbi/artist-program/exhibition.html>

## Bluefish Hearings

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are seeking public comment on management options under consideration in the Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment.

Five meetings are 3/24–4/8. Visit [https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/1167425575591673359?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/1167425575591673359?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Written comments may be submitted. Online at <https://www.mafmc.org/comments/bluefish-allocation-rebuilding-amendment>; email [mseeley@mafmc.org](mailto:mseeley@mafmc.org); mail to Dr. Christopher Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; fax, 302-674-5399

## Black History/ Women's History

### Dorothy Dandridge

Trailblazer of the Silver Screen: Dorothy Dandridge (1922-1965), singer and film actress, was the first Black woman to be nominated for an Academy Award for best actress.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1270074016535012> to watch a clip of her in "Carmen Jones."

### Ida B. Wells-Barnett

An Iconic Woman: Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Anti-Lynching Crusader, was a prominent journalist, activist, and researcher, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In her lifetime, she battled sexism, racism, and violence. As a skilled writer, Wells-Barnett also used her skills as a journalist to shed light on the conditions of African Americans throughout the South.

Visit <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ida-b-wells-barnett>



# #Kevin2021

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# Recipe of the Week

## Potato and Egg Casserole

- 6 potatoes
- 8 eggs
- seasoning salt to taste
- 1 cup margarine
- 1 (16 oz) container sour cream
- Preheat oven to 350 °

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add potatoes and cook until tender but still firm, about 15 minutes. Drain, cool, peel & slice.

Place eggs in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring water to a boil and immediately remove from heat. Cover and let eggs stand in hot water for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from hot water, cool, peel and slice.

In a 9x13" casserole dish, layer potatoes and eggs, sprinkling each layer of eggs with seasoning salt, ending with potatoes.

In a small saucepan over low heat, melt margarine with sour cream. Pour over potatoes and sprinkle lightly with seasoning salt.

Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes.

*From allrecipes.com*

## 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](mailto:neighbnews@comcast.net) (Email preferred)

# Dear Frankie



## Seeking a Playful Companion

*Dear Frankie,*  
My name is Houdinia. I got my name because I am a rabbit and like to pretend that I'm a magician and can disappear when I'm hiding. It's not

much of a game though, if you live alone and there isn't anyone to look for you. I often see the dogs in the neighborhood playing hide and seek. So, I was wondering if you thought it was good idea for me to get a dog as a playmate? I understand girl dogs can be gentler, than the boys.

Cordially,

*Houdinia*

*Dear Houdinia,*

First of all, are you sure your family is on board with taking on a canine? It's one thing to care for a rabbit. Dogs on the other hand require much more work and expense.

Your question does make me wonder how much experience you have had with dogs. Are you aware that some dogs find it a great sport to chase rabbits and hurt them? There are also dogs that are specifically bred to hunt and kill rabbits. So, whatever you do, stay away from the hunters. Definitely don't get a

greyhound, beagle, or a bloodhound.

If you get the OK from your family and still have your heart set on getting a dog, I suggest you find an older and lazy one. Size should also be a consideration. You definitely need a big dog that won't be able to get under the couch if that's one of your go-to disappearing places. When you think of all the criteria a dog would have to meet to be your playmate, it doesn't sound like that kind of dog would be much fun.

The only other option I can suggest is a big friendly dog with a bad leg. Dogs with a disability often are not chosen for adoption, so you would each be doing the other a favor.

Now that I have pointed out all the things you need to consider in selecting the right dog, you might want to go back to the drawing board. Are you sure a fellow rabbit that also likes to play hide and seek might not be a better choice? A rabbit could also double your chances for amusement because each of you can get a turn being the hider as well as the seeker.

*Best, Frankie*


*P.S. I think your name is a kick*

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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.*

*Comments and letters can be sent to*

**FRANKIE: cont'd on page 21**



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# DaCunha's

## Dispatches

News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha



Special to the Neighb News

### Is going back full time now the best thing?

As the COVID numbers in Massachusetts regarding cases and deaths are improving, our state leaders such as Governor Baker, are starting to initiate the plan of having students fully back in school by the end of spring.

Now, it is clear that most people, if not all, are looking forward to getting back to normal, but is it too soon?

Let's find out how FHS students are feeling about this news of possibly being fully back in school very soon.

Junior Rylee Botelho feels that, "starting full time school back up so late in the year is a bad idea. Everyone has gotten used to the flow of things this year... and changing it again would just cause chaos. Also, I think that if we try to start up again, the spread would just get bigger and cause us to have another hybrid year for 2022."

Emerson Bourgault reflected on past years and how tough it would be to go back fully in school after such an odd year.

"It would definitely be difficult to adapt to full time school again since I only go in every other week and get out of school almost two hours

earlier than I did last year," she said. "It's crazy looking back at the very busy schedule I endured my sophomore year with honors and AP classes along with sports."

Based on that, Ms. Bourgault stated, "I believe our best choice would be to finish how we are and wait until next year so we start the new school year fresh."

Many students I spoke with felt similarly to Ms. Botelho and Ms. Bourgault as they do not know how easy it will be to go from essentially spending half of the school year at home to the full 180 days in school.

Although we have been fully in school for the majority of our lives prior to the pandemic, it seems to be

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First, I think that being back in school full time is something that most people are excited about, but I also understand the nervousness that surrounds this idea.

---

a hard idea to grasp for some as the pandemic has affected our lives greatly.

On the flip side, some students are very eager to return back to school full time.

For example, Ireland Nordstrom stated, "It would obviously be a drastic change but I believe I am ready for this because I learn best on my in-person weeks anyway. After being hybrid for almost a year now, it

would definitely take time getting used to, but I'm sure we will all be able to successfully handle the full time in school by the end of spring."

Many like Ms. Nordstrom find the in school weeks much easier to learn.

So, if anything, going back to school full time may benefit students as they will be able to receive more learning time and opportunities than the hybrid plan has to offer.

Looking forward to the MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) and future standardized testing, freshman Sophia Fleurent is anything but apprehensive about starting full time school so soon.

"I think we should go back full time ASAP, and that it wouldn't be hard to adjust, because for the past year we've been adjusting so much, so we are practically used to it at this point," she said. "It will benefit our grades and help us to catch up and better prepare for the MCAS."

Based on how students feel about the Governor's statement on being back in school full time, I've been able to conclude several things.

First, I think that being back in school full time is something that most people are excited about, but I also understand the nervousness that surrounds this idea. Of course, with COVID, there are endless possibilities and changes that can occur within the snap of a finger, but it is safe to say that sooner or later we are going to have to face this and adjust accordingly.

What are your thoughts on bringing back a full in-school schedule back for the end of this school year? Do you think students will be ready to make an adjustment like this within such a short amount of time, or do you think it's worth waiting to go back to full time school?



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Fairhaven

# Selectboard interviews Graves for TA, vote ends in stalemate

Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

Twenty-three days after interviewing the three finalists forwarded by the Town Administrator Screening Committee (SC), a two-member Fairhaven Selectboard interviewed Interim Town Administrator and Finance Director/Treasurer/Collector Wendy Graves on 3/11. Board member Keith Silvia had to recuse himself due to a conflict of interest because his wife is the Council on Aging Director and reports to the TA (see page 3). Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas, and board member Bob Espindola interviewed Ms. Graves, along with the town's hiring consultant, Bernard Lynch from Paradigm Associates.

Ms. Graves, who participated by Zoom, said she wanted the TA position because it is the "natural progression" of advancement.

"It's the only place to move up. There's nothing higher than my position other than town administrator, and I do love Fairhaven," said Ms. Graves. "I love working here and I love the working for the people, for those reasons."

Ms. Graves's resume reflects a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting/finance/information technology from Nichols College in Dudley, MA. She received a certificate in local government leadership and management in the Suffolk University program in 2020, and a certificate from the Supervisory Leadership Development Program from the Mass. Municipal Personnel Association in 2017. She is certified as a Mass. municipal collector and a Mass. Municipal treasurer.

Mr. Lynch noted that Millbury changed its town charter to make the treasurer appointed rather than elected at the end of Ms. Graves's term in 2002. He pointed out that Millbury underwent a Department of Revenue (DOR) financial management review, which reflected "cash reconciliation problems" in 2002, 2003, "and perhaps before that," said Mr. Lynch. "It seemed to have been going on for some time."

Ms. Graves said that might have taken place after she left.

"You left in 2002, I think?" asked Mr. Lynch.

Ms. Graves also worked as the full-time treasurer/assistant collector for the Town of Princeton from 2002-2001. During that time, Ms. Graves said she was asked to assist the Town of Medway with its cash reconciliation, but as Mr. Lynch underlined, Ms. Graves's three years holding of multiple positions in Medway was not on her resume.

"As you know, Medway was on the brink of receivership ... in 2005 while you were there," said Mr. Lynch, adding that a DOR report reflected deficit concerns.

Ms. Graves said in Medway she went

from reconciling cash to an appointment of assistant treasurer/collector. She described interpersonal problems between a new town accountant and an assistant accountant, so Ms. Graves was asked to "trade spots" while those differences were resolved. When the town accountant was fired, Ms. Graves was appointed to the position, although she said she was not experienced in municipal accounting at that time, and two different accountants had been in that office within a short period of time.

"It was a mess and I could never really get it cleaned up," she said.

The TA then left and when the treasurer left, the town appointed someone with no experience. She resigned from that position soon after because the new TA told her she could not take a vacation that she had planned with her terminally ill mother.

"And a report came out ... later on and said certain things," said Ms. Graves. "I couldn't really tell you what it was, no one ever approached me and said anything about it."

---

Mr. Lynch said Ms. Graves was in Medway for 2.5 years, and because it was a statutory position, it was concerning that it was left off her resume.

---

"You were interviewed in that report," said Mr. Lynch. "According to the report."

Ms. Graves said she was, but the report came out after she left.

Mr. Lynch said Ms. Graves was in Medway for 2.5 years, and because it was a statutory position, it was concerning that it was left off her resume. Selectboard member Bob Espindola pointed out it was also left off her resume in 2013 when she applied for Fairhaven treasurer/collector.

Ms. Graves said she had "a lot of things" left off her resume that she said could be found in her accounting-specific resume, and added, "It wasn't anything that I was trying to hide."

"It's not just an in-and-out months-long thing," said Mr. Lynch, "So that's why it raised some concerns as to why it was missing ... given the concerns of Medway in 2005. They were well-known around the state for the financial problems that they were having. The issue with the reporting of the deficits was a concern as well."

Mr. Lynch then turned to Ms. Graves's position as treasurer/collector for Taunton from January 2011 to April 2013 and asked

her to explain the circumstances leading to her resignation and that city's \$2 million deficit in free cash at the close of FY12, which was noted in another DOR report.

Ms. Graves said there was a borrowing shortage on a school project. She said the town accountant was using a new system and creating Excel spreadsheets and that "you couldn't really find it on the computer."

She blamed the accountant for the unfortunate events, saying, "I feel like she should've, like, let me know, seeing I was new, that things was going on, so, you know, for that reason."

She said the Taunton job "was never a really good fit" and she did not have "full rein."

Mr. Lynch asked Ms. Graves to describe her leadership and management style and how she would motivate employees.

"I'm not a 'do as I say, not as I do' kind of person," she said. "I treat everybody equally, into team building, and..."

"How do you do that?" asked Mr. Lynch.

"Basically, it's the communication and letting them know what you expect of them," she said.

Mr. Espindola asked about implementing the Selectboard's goals and policy objectives, work which Mr. Espindola said Mr. Rees would consider "second only to his budget decisions."

Mr. Espindola added that, this year, the town is behind schedule and asked Ms. Graves how she would expect to gain the experience she needed to catch up.

Before she could answer, Mr. Freitas interjected: "I thought that you had said that we have to stick with questions we had asked every other candidate. I don't recall you asking this question to any of the other candidates."

Mr. Espindola said he had said he would ask the same categories of questions.

"No, you told us specifically, you even told us to ...go back and look at the meetings..."

"Are you in favor of asking the exact same questions that she's had three weeks to prepare for?" asked Mr. Espindola, and he repeated "same categories" several times as Mr. Freitas argued the point until he said, "Ask your question, Bob."

Ms. Graves responded: "OK, so, although I wasn't involved in that, we did have team meetings that we brought up what our goals were and Mark worked those into it."

She added she would take what she learned from Mr. Rees and other TAs, "but I will be my own person."

Mr. Espindola referred to a recent work environment climate study at Town Hall and asked if there were specific actions Ms. Graves had taken since appointed as interim

**GRAVES: cont'd on page 26**

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## Fairhaven Council on Aging

The Fairhaven Council on Aging Senior Center remains closed to the public until further notice. The staff is available to take phone calls and to assist you in any way possible.

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The following link will explain how the challenge works. <https://ecochallenge.org/ecochallenge-platform/hoe-it-works/> Registration runs through the month of March and the challenge begins in April.

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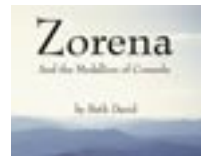
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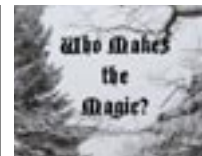
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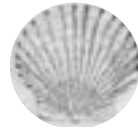
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NMLS # 422864

# Candidates introduce themselves to the public

*Beth Davdi*

**Editor/Publisher**

Fairhaven Government Access TV-Channel 18 and with the North Fairhaven Improvement Association sponsored a "Meet the Candidates" night on Monday, 3/15, allowing candidates for office in Fairhaven the chance to make their pitches directly to the public. The format allowed for a three minute opening and closing statement, and two minutes to answer each question.

The questions were posed by Fairhaven High School student Elizabeth Edminster, and the evening was moderated by NFIA president Pauline Parker. Candidates were introduced according to their placement on the ballot.

Fairhaven will vote on Monday, 4/6. Selectboard incumbent Bob Espindola began by saying he has been on the Selectboard for the past nine years, so voters know him in that role. He spoke about his personal life, noting that he and his wife are both from Fairhaven and graduated from Fairhaven High School together in 1981, and started dating in college. They lived in California for awhile, but moved back to Fairhaven into his family home.

Mr. Espindola said he was one of 10 children and his parents instilled the values of accountability, honesty, integrity, reliability, responsibility, courtesy to others.

He and his wife have raised four children and are "working hard to instill those same values" in them, he said.

"I like to think I am honoring my family in how I conduct myself as your representative," said Mr. Espindola, adding that he takes ethics and the Open Meeting Law very seriously.

He said he has worked hard to earn the respect of voters.

"This means remembering that I serve you," said Mr. Espindola, and that means listening, being respectful, being prepared, and keeping the town "first and foremost in my words and actions."

Selectboard challenger Lisa Plante said she was running for a simple reason: "I love this town."

She said she is a mom with three children, and is "just grateful they've gotten to grow up in such a beautiful place."

She said she wants to be a "voice

for the people.

Her father taught her to give back to the town "that gave so much to you."

Ms. Plante noted that she has been a long time Town Meeting member, a member of the Finance Committee, the Commission on Disability, and has spent hundreds of hours volunteering with the school department.

She said one of her strengths is her working knowledge of the budgets. She said she works well with her peers, the Selectboard Town Counsel, the Town Administrator and is familiar with all the town departments.

"I feel I can walk into this role and fulfill it the way it needs to be," she said, adding that she could bring "some peace and calm."

She also said she would like to lead

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Both Selectboard candidates said the Town Administrator process had not been handled well, with both stating that the rules or process had not been followed.

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with "humility and positivity. I believe that's very important."

She also said she cares about the environment, the Rogers School project, and wants to bring more voices at meeting, such as an allotted time for each precinct, whether it be for criticism or praise. We learn from criticism, she said.

"We always need to do better," she said.

The first question they faced was if they felt the Town Administrator hiring process had been handled appropriately and what they would do differently.

Both said it had not been handled well, with both stating that the rules or process had not been followed.

Mr. Espindola said the process involved many volunteer hours and nearly \$10,000 to a consultant, and they should have "stuck with that process."

He said he would advise that if anyone had a problem with the process that they identify those issues "before the process begins and

then perhaps things would be smoother."

Ms. Plante said she watched, and had no role in the process but that it did not go the way it should have.

She thanked the volunteers and said it was unfortunate it ended the way it did.

"It could've been done better, absolutely," said Ms. Plante, adding that there were rules and they should "be followed always."

If elected, she said she realized she would see another process and she would want to make sure all the rules are followed and it is done "100% by the book."

Asked about the three most pressing issues facing the town, both said the search for a Town Administrator.

Mr. Espindola also said the town has "enormous capital needs" coming up and they have to find a way to manage those with putting too much of a burden on taxpayers and water and sewer users.

He also said coming out of the pandemic safely and encouraging economic development in town to "help keep us on a positive path forward."

Ms. Plante also said that the board needs to work as a team, "we need some peace."

Third, she said, they need to work with the other boards and bring that "same cohesiveness and strength" to them.

The two were also asked that with all the negativity in town, what three positive things have come out of the last year.

Mr. Espindola said the town has taken the COVID 19 issue in a positive way and has taken a lot of steps to recover financially. We have been tested, he said, and have proven that the financial policies helped us weather the storm. The continued effort along the goals they've set in place, and the efforts at openness, transparency, informing the public, with all the boards and community working on that has been a positive thing.

Ms. Plante said the police, fire and EMS personnel have "stepped up and done an amazing job," putting themselves at risk. People have been watching out for each other, caring about each other, she said, as a small

**CANDIDATES: cont'd next page**



# CANDIDATES: cont'd from previous page

town people know each other, and "it's a beautiful thing."

Third, she said the Finance Committee has been conservative with funds and that has helped the town during the last year.

The two disagreed on commissioning a Department of Revenue report, something Mr. Espindola has been advocating for in the past few months. Ms. Plante said she did not support it now, but maybe in a year when this are not so "chaotic."

For his closing statement Mr. Espindola said being a Selectboard member is more than just showing up to meetings.

He spoke about his successes, including his work on the Cable Advisory Committee and the Fiber Optic network that resulted; the Bikeway Committee that let to the town joining the Complete Streets Program, that makes Fairhaven eligible for grants; a Fiber Optic Study Committee that could result in increased data capacity for homes, and could be an economic driver for the town; and his work with the town planner to reshape the business corridor on Route 6.

He said there are many good people contributing on those committees to get things done.

"I believe these things start with a vision," he said.

He also thanked Ms. Plante for running for the Selectboard, and noted that some day maybe they will be able to change the name to Selectboard (from Board of Selectmen), an effort that failed with the other two board members voting against the measure.

In her closing statement, Ms. Plante said it was time for a change. She stressed that she was coming

from FinCom, being a member for almost 10 years.

"I know how to serve. I know how to be a leader. And I know how to be humble," said Ms. Plante.

She said she wanted to take the people's voice and make it stronger, and that she could transition "seamlessly" from FinCom to Selectboard, "and bring something new to the table."

She said she would never give up, fight for the "people of this town,"

show host, and a life-long resident of Fairhaven.

Asked for one way that the BPW is working to improve living conditions for residents, which is part of the board's mission statement, Mr. Ferro first pointed to the new contract to overhaul the meter reading system.

He said the new, more efficient system will save residents a significant amount of money.

He also touted the way the beach was run last summer during the pandemic, calling it an "interesting time."

Because of the restrictions to so many activities due to COVID-19, the beach was "very frequented," he said. The board limited the use of the town beach to residents only, making it safer.

I closing he said reiterated that he has lived in Fairhaven his whole life.

"I love this town," said Mr. Ferro, adding that it has been an honor to serve.

He said the public works department provides all the essential services a municipality should provide, such as highway, beach, public parks.

He said also he is unopposed, he appreciates the support he has received from the community.

The evening also included School Committee, with three candidates running for two seats; Planning Board with four candidates for four seats (two are unexpired terms); Tree Warden, with two candidates for one seat; and the town moderator who is unopposed. See next week's issue for our story on those races.

To watch the video, visit <https://livestream.com/fairhavenlive/events/8101110>



Marcus Ferro, running for reelection to the Fairhaven Board of Public Works, participates via Zoom in a candidates night on 3/15/21. Screen shot from Fairhaven Government Cable TV by Beth David.

and as she learns from other boards, "maybe do something amazing in town."

Two unopposed candidates also opted to join the evening: Marcus Ferro, running for reelection for his seat on the Board of Public Works, and Town Moderator Mark Sylvia, also running for reelection.

Mr. Ferro said he wanted to take the opportunity to introduce himself to the town, as he was appointed last summer to fill a vacancy. He is an attorney, an real estate broker, a talk

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## From our readers

### **Incompetence, Corruption, or Both?**

Another week has gone by and our Selectboard chair Mr. Freitas continues his apparent desire to blow up this Town Administrator hiring process in any way he can, with Mr. Silvia's blind and mute support.

We have a highly qualified and experienced applicant who came out on top of the Selectboard appointed screening committee ready to recruit, yet Mr. Freitas can only continue to push for his unqualified insider applicant, even after last week's "interview".

Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia have butchered this process so badly that the paid consultant doesn't even want to work for them anymore. And two of the legitimate finalists have withdrawn their applications. Who would be surprised to learn that they want nothing to do with Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia?

We shouldn't be standing by and letting this level of incompetence and corruption happen, Fairhaven. But what can we do?

I see two actions that must happen: First: increase our Selectboard from three to five members. There's an article to be voted on at our next annual Town Meeting this June to approve this, and it needs to pass. We've all seen how destructive a board can be when two members are free to dictate and bully the third (and you) down the wrong path. Please attend this Town Meeting and support that article.

Second: if there is to be another Town Administrator search committee, Mr. Freitas (or any Selectboard member) should NOT be on it. There's no better way to poison a search committee than to place Mr. Freitas on it. Let's not let that happen again.

*Phil Washko, Fairhaven*

### **Republicans should refuse check, and not owe the debt**

I concur with the opinion of "To My Republican Friends" (3/11/21), namely that Republicans that receive the \$1400 check should return them to the Treasury. However, I would add that anyone that does so should not bear the burden of the cost: \$5,750 per person (\$1.9T/330M). In the absence of this exemption, they should save and invest anticipating the unavoidable day of reckoning.

This is a classic example of the

"Law of Unexpected Consequences" repeatedly exhibited by our elected officials. Rather than peel the onion to understand the comprehensive impact of the proposed solution, weigh the benefits versus the cost and explain the balancing act they performed, our short-sighted representatives leap onto a simple catch phrase extolling the virtues to convince the short attention span populous.

The questions that we, as constituents, should be asking are "What are the negative consequences of this solution (bill, act, law, mandate, executive order, etc.)?" and "How have you weighted those against the benefits?" If we do not demand this type of assessment, we deserve the plation we get from our elected loan sharks.

*Steven Schaeffer, Fairhaven*

### **Selectboard helms a sinking ship**

A dangerous situation. Taking on water, and the waves are washing over the sides with increasing frequency. The Captain is absent and some of the first mates are running around looking for a bucket to bail the water. Unfortunately their bucket of choice has holes in it.

What to do about a dysfunctional Board of Selectmen, and an unhealthy Board of Health. Couple this with the fact that there no longer seems to be a Human Resource Department to field concerns and register complaints. We are a vessel just bobbing along with some heavy weather comin' in.

Bob Espindola takes the time and does his research. He anticipates issues and works to preempt them whenever possible. This is a serious endeavor for him. I only wish that there were more candidates of his ilk and abilities to belly up to the bar.

He cannot continue to do this alone.

*Susan Spooner, Fairhaven*

### **Opt Up is Not a 10% Increase in Electric Bill**

There has been some confusion about the Fairhaven Community Electricity Aggregation program and the 10% increase in renewable energy that Fairhaven has added to our electricity mix, so I hope to clear up some of the confusion.

It's important to understand that the 10% increase in renewable energy for the standard product is not a 10%

increase in your bill. To check the increase in your bill per month multiply \$0.00395 by your monthly usage. The increase goes to support renewable energy infrastructure right here in New England. If that is unaffordable, you should choose Fairhaven BASIC instead, which will keep your rate at the renewable energy level equal to state requirements.

If you choose to leave the program, you will return to Basic Service and will miss out on the program benefits. Go to [masscea.com/fairhaven](http://masscea.com/fairhaven) to look at all the options available to you. You can calculate the monthly cost for each product and how these options compare to Eversource Basic Service.

This 10% increase in renewable energy is an opportunity for us to transition our electricity grid from dirty fossil fuels, such as natural gas, to clean sources, such as solar. You can go a step further and sign up for either of the two OPT UP products that have even more renewable energy: 50% or 100% of your usage.

With climate crisis effects looming, we can pay now or pay later, and we are already paying: flood zones are changing on the Southcoast because of sea level rise and the increase in extreme precipitation events is already evident. If economics are your primary concern, then consider the future cost of the climate crisis if we continue to do nothing about emissions. We will all bear this cost. Our children and grandchildren will be impacted the most. Fairhaven should be proud to be the only town on the southcoast to have added this 10% increase; this is in keeping with our status as a Green Community.

The 10% increase in renewable energy in the Fairhaven Standard product helps create more local jobs in renewable energy in our region because it increases the demand for those sources and it improves our air quality, right here on the Southcoast!

On a greater regional level, Southcoast residents who are part of the CEA program can opt up for more renewable energy. With only a modest increase in your electric bill (perhaps \$15-20 per month), you can add 50% or 100% renewable energy to your home or business by going to your town from [masscea.com](http://masscea.com) and then completing the Enrollment Form. If you do opt up, we'd love to hear about it and celebrate your choice

**LETTERS: cont'd on page 21**

# Acushnet sends letter to state to get COVID vaccine

*Beth Davdi*  
**Editor/Publisher**

The Acushnet Selectboard and other town officials have sent a letter to Mass. Governor Charlie Baker asking that the state authorize local governments to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

The letter, dated 3/1/21, notes that the town has been testing residents and town employees on a regular basis, so the infrastructure is in place to easily switch from testing to vaccinations.

“It is our strong conviction that community based clinics are a vital, accessible option to vulnerable Phase 2 populations who, due to age, physical and mental health conditions, mobility challenges, or economic barriers, cannot readily book an appointment and travel to a mass vaccine site,” reads the letter. “In addition, we are ready, willing, and able to quickly and efficiently offer vaccines to our Phase 2 essential workers, namely teachers, who are being called upon to take on a larger

role in serving the public education needs of students in the next month.”

The letter says that the town believes they are “best suited” to run clinics for essential workers, such as public works and school personnel.

“The infrastructure is already in

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We implore you to consider local governments as your strongest link in accomplishing this goal of mass vaccination and the reopening of our schools and communities.

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place from testing our employees on a weekly basis, and our efficiency in high demand processing of tests is tried and true,” reads the letter, and adds that the testing team has tested more than 400 residents within a three-hour time frame “flawlessly.”

“Particularly in light of Commissioner Riley’s recent announcement that the state wishes to see elementary students in school full time by April, empowering local governments to quickly vaccinate school employees at a convenient location and without forcing them to compete with one million other eligible residents on a state website that has struggled to meet demand would be an incredible advantage toward meeting this goal,” reads the letter.

It also specifically notes that the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine that is now available makes the idea of local testing “an even more compelling approach to promote healthy schools and protect essential personnel without interrupting the flow of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to the mass vaccination sites.”

“We respectfully request your advocacy in supporting the vaccination of school personnel through a municipal approach utilizing the

ACUSH: cont'd on page 21

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## Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/94115137952?pwd=MXpoVWpKTFBEUmluT1pWSctiVzJCQT09>  
or call 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 941 1513 7952  
Passcode: 361259

1. **Administrative Appeal by Fairhaven Shipyard – re: 7 Union Street. REF#:ZBA-AA 01.** Seeking reversal of zoning determination by the Town of Fairhaven Building Commissioner dated February 20, 2020.(Application attached) – **Continued** from April 7, 2020, May 5, 2020, June 2, 2020, and July 7,

2020, and August 11, 2020, and September 2, 2020.)Asking for a continuance to December 1, 2020 per applicant's request. **Previously continued until this meeting.**

2. **Administrative Appeal by A1 Crane – re: 86-88 Middle Street. REF#: ZBA-AA-02.** Administrative Appeal from a letter dated April 7, 2020 from the Building Commissioner stating that the operation on the site is in violation of the Mixed Use zoning regulations. (see attached-Exhibit 3) (continued per applicant's request to September 2, 2020 Meeting, see attached.) **Previously continued. Continued to April 6 2021, at applicant's request.**

3. **REF#: ZBA 2021-11: 78 Akin Street. Arruda, Peter, Applicant.** 198-18: Variance request for 1,765 short of 15,000 sq feet required in a RA District for a buildable lot.

4. **REF #:ZBA 2021-12:198 Balsam Street.Cohen, Steven** 198-32.2: Variance request for 84' longer than the 75' allowable length for a pier dock,

gangway and float.

198-32.2: Special Permit for a pier/dock.

5. **REF#: ZBA 2021-13:18 Massasoit Ave. Foster, Brendan.** 198-16: Variance request for 11.1' on front setback for a proposed addition.

198-16: Special Permit for an in-law/accessory apartment.

6. **REF#: ZBA 2021-14:Map 41, Lot 49 Silvershell Beach Drive. Lopes, Joyce** Administrative Appeal by Joyce Lopes for letter dated February 5, 2021 by the Town of Fairhaven's Building Commissioner for storage of a camper or utility trailer.

198-16: Special Permit request to park a motorhome on Map 41, Lot 49, a vacant piece of land on Silvershell Beach Drive.

7. **REF#: ZBA 2021-15:140 Adams Street. Marques, Raymond Jr.** 198-23:Special Permit request for a home property maintenance/landscaping business.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman  
FNN: 3/18/21, 3/25/21

## CONFLICT: cont'd from page 3

about the process and some people who had been put on the committee to sabotage certain people's chances of getting on the shortlist."

He said the release of the committee's executive session minutes would vindicate him.

"Ms. Graves was notified that she was chosen," he continued. "Shortly thereafter, an article came out in the *Neighborhood News* (see the 1/24/21 issue). "Somebody had given Beth David Ms. Graves's personnel file for the town.\* This was highly unethical."

He said when that information was published, rumors of sabotage "went from rumor to fact."

He also criticized an email the TA Screening Committee received before it voted to forward Ms. Graves as a finalist (which it rescinded), advising the committee "that Ms. Graves was a terrible candidate."

He said he tried to convince the committee that the information the *Neighb News* obtained about Ms. Graves "was false, but each time I tried to explain, I was shut off."\*\*

"So, when Keith brought up that Wendy should be given a chance to be interviewed, I thought it was appropriate that we at least give her a chance. Unfortunately, the rumors have no end," said Mr. Freitas.

Mr. Freitas also referred to a letter from a Finance Committee member, who later self-identified as Chris Fidalgo, that questioned Mr. Freitas's and Mr. Silvia's motives for their staunch support of Ms. Graves.

Mr. Freitas also accused Mr. Espindola of being involved to try to "make it look like I did something nefarious."

He said Ms. Graves would get her interview "not because of bribes or promises to get people jobs.

"She'll be given the chance because the folks who have tried to sabotage Ms. Graves's chances will not be allowed to succeed," Mr. Freitas said. and then told Mr. Espindola he should resign.

Mr. Espindola responded with bewilderment, denying the alleged involvement in any scheme with Mr. Fidalgo, and questioned Mr. Freitas's apparent mistrust of the TA Screening Committee and how it was formed.

"I'm trying to figure out how that works because when the committee was formed, it was formed at the same time. You were appointed to that committee the same time as everyone else," he said

"I know, Bob, you're going to play like you don't understand," said Mr. Freitas, and added that his suspicions came true. "That's why I put myself there, and, obviously, those concerns were well-founded."

Mr. Espindola expressed concern about starting the hiring process over and expressed empathy for the screening committee members.

"We may have to start this whole process all over again because [Keith] shouldn't have been involved in it at all," said Mr. Freitas turning to the hiring consultant Bernard Lynch on the monitor for advice.

"I'm not an attorney," said Mr. Lynch. "That's a question for [Town Counsel] Attorney Crotty to give you advice on that."

Mr. Lynch pointed out that there could be problems with State Ethics should a complaint be lodged.

"There will be questions raised," he said and added that the State Ethics Commission sometimes reverses or orders matters to be revisited for compliance with the law.

"Given his participation in the other interviews, though, and him making the motion to [advance] Ms. Graves forward, I really, I don't know," said Mr. Lynch.

Mr. Freitas suggested postponing Ms. Graves's interview again. The last time it was postponed was on 2/22 right after she had an attorney deliver a Cease and Desist order to Mr. Espindola for alleged defamatory remarks about her (see the 2/25/21 issue). Mr. Espindola argued in favor of holding the interview.

Mr. Freitas was hesitant, saying, "there's another part of this and... there could be another issue," but he would not elaborate.

In the end, he declared: "Sure, let's go on with the interview. What have we got to lose?"

(See interview story on page 13)

The *Neighb News* sent a follow-up email directed to Mr. Crotty and forwarded to the Selectboard the morning of 3/15 asking questions about potential outcomes for the process, including whether or not the town needed to rescind the vote to appoint Ms. Graves as interim TA on 1/4. Mr. Silvia also participated when he appointed Dr. Brian Bowcock to the screening committee and also Cathy Melanson as the committee's sole female member.

\*The *Neighb News* received several letters and/or emails between former TA Mark Rees and Ms. Graves. The anonymous source did not provide her personnel file.

\*\*Ms. Graves did not dispute the veracity of the leaked information (see 1/24/21 issue for her full statement)

See Mr. Freitas's full statement as transcribed on our website at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

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**FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10**  
*Frankie at dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com. The Fairhaven Neighborhood News publishes the Dear Frankie column. To receive a free online subscription, email neighbnews@comcast.net and request to be added to the email list, or visit www.neighbnews.com to read the paper online or to download the latest issue.*

**LETTERS: cont'd from page 18**  
with a sticker to help get the word out to others! Contact us at climarealitysouthcoast@gmail.com.  
If you want to be involved in further efforts to fight the climate crisis, please join our group. We meet monthly via Zoom. Visit www.climarealitysouthcoast.com

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
*Laura Gardner, Fairhaven resident, mom, teacher librarian and... Chair of Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast*

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A. K. Antony

**ACUSH: cont'd from page 19**  
Johnson & Johnson vaccine, especially since the Commonwealth will receive more than four times the amount required to vaccinate all the teachers in the state," reads the letter. "We need our teachers to focus on educating and supporting the children in our districts so we can start addressing the substantial social-emotional challenges the pandemic has created for students and their families. The reality is that the health and wellness of our educators and staff is essential in our efforts to bring students back to full in-person learning, and a one-dose vaccine distributed by local municipalities to their staff can accomplish that.

"We implore you to consider local governments as your strongest link in accomplishing this goal of mass vaccination and the reopening of our schools and communities."

The letter was signed by the Selectboard, Town Administrator, Board of Health, Fire Chief, Superintendent of Schools, Health Agent, School Business Manager, Council on Aging Director, and Emergency Management Director.

It was sent to the governor and copied to Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, Sen. Mark Montigny, and Rep. Christopher Hendricks.

The letter is available on our website at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com) and on the town of Acushnet website: <https://www.acushnet.ma.us/>

## 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

#### Board of Appeals

Tues., 4/6, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Board of Health/Screen Com

Thurs., 4/18, Town Hall/Remote, 4 p.

#### Board of Public Works

Mon., 3/22, Arsene St./Remote, 6:15 p

#### Community Preservation

Wed., 3/24, TH/Remote, 6:30 p.m.

#### Conservation Commission

Mon., 3/22, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

#### Economic Development

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

#### Planning Board

Tues., 3/23, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

#### School Committee

Wed., 3/24, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

#### Selectboard

Mon. 3/22, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Acushnet

#### Board of Appeals

Tues., 3/23, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

#### Golf Committee

Thurs., 3/18, Closed to Public, 4 p.m.

#### Lake Street Improvement

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

#### Planning Board

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

#### Selectboard/School Comm/

#### FinCom joint mtg

Wed., 3/24, Remote, 7 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	18	---	1209	0502	1707
Friday	19	0034	1300	0539	1745
Saturday	20	0127	1354	0627	1834
Sunday	21	0220	1447	0731	1940
Monday	22	0313	1543	0839	2046
Tuesday	23	0413	1649	0942	2149

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

# Candidate Statements: School Committee

## Cathleen Marchessault



My name is Cathleen Marchessault and I am running for a seat on the Fairhaven School Committee. A life-long resident of the South-

coast, I have resided in Fairhaven for the last 18 years. Having been a teacher in the public school system for over 20 years, I strongly believe that education is our most important community investment.

I am open-minded, solution focused and willing to listen. The primary issues of my campaign are our students' mental health and continued well-being, as well as solutions to address inconsistencies in students' academic progress. The Fairhaven School Committee needs to support both families and teachers to quickly adapt to the ever changing landscape of education in 2021.

MARCH: cont'd on page 25 column 1

## Donna McKenna



Fairhaven voters, I am excited to announce my re-election campaign for the Fairhaven Public Schools School Committee. I

have served on this committee for 9 years and will be honored once again to serve and represent you all for another 3-year term.

As a life-long native resident of our beautiful town, a fellow alum, and parent of two children who are also alums of Fairhaven Public Schools, I am so proud of the progress we have made for our students.

It is because of these reasons and more I continue to serve and represent our blue and white colors proudly. I fully support our leadership team, educators, staff, and most importantly, our students through supporting initiatives focusing on

MCKENNA: cont'd page 25 column 2

## Colin Veitch



Hello, my name is Colin Veitch, and I have been fortunate to have enjoyed your trust and confidence for many years by serving

our town on the School Committee.

I have been a Fairhaven resident for 25 years with four children who just completed their educational careers in our system.

I consider all of our children a precious trust that requires an investment of time in our educational system and in the entire Town of Fairhaven. A great town makes a great educational system when we all work together.

What that means to me is to take what I have learned as a father, a business executive, and a person and apply that to providing guidance for our school district to keep it moving

VEITCH: cont'd page 25 column 3

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# BPW discusses tree warden position, roadwork

By Mary Macedo

## Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Tuesday 3/9 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed roadwork on Billy's Way with concerned neighbors, and finance issues with upcoming roadwork. The board also discussed presenting an article at Town Meeting that would make the Tree Warden position appointed instead of elected.

The board first met with with Alain Lachet and Jean Pierre Lachet via Zoom about roadwork and drainage issues on Billy's Way.

Superintendent Vinnie Furtado explained that Billy's Way was approved to be paved and to receive new drainage, but for the project to happen Conservation Commission requires that some had to boulders be removed. Ms. Pierre said that they had told the ConCom that they would like the boulders to be put back after the work was done.

Mr. Furtado said the boulders were not put back and to do that the BPW needed to vote to send him back to ConCom to ask for approval.

Board member Frank Coelho asked if the Lachet family can go in front of ConCom to ask for the rocks. Mr. Furtado explained that because the appeal period is over, the BPW is supposed to ask.

BPW Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said he thought it was ridiculous to send Mr. Furtado in front of ConCom for a rock. Mr. Hobson said it was just a rock and it did not mean anything.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton said he agreed with Mr. Hobson.

Mr. Coelho said there should be a way that the neighbors can go in front of ConCom, that they should have the right to ask for the rock back. He said the issue has nothing to do with the BPW. Mr. Hobson agreed with Mr. Coelho.

"I'm good with that," Mr. Hobson said. "Let them go to Con Com, not us."

After some back and forth and competing motions, the board voted to ask the neighbors to go to ConCom and if they are unsuccessful, the board will send Mr. Furtado.

In another matter Mr. Furtado informed the board that he would be submitting an article to Town Meeting that will make the Tree Warden position an appointed position rather than elected. He said that article will just be the first step in trying to get the Tree Warden position to be run by the BPW.

Mr. Furtado explained that with the budget cuts this year that it is not the right time for the BPW to take on the Tree Department, but the article will start the

process for the change.

Mr. Hobson asked if they could remove the Tree Warden for being incompetent. Mr. Furtado said that they cannot do that because the Tree Warden is elected. If the BPW wants the Tree Warden position to be part of the department, then changing the position to an appointed position is the first step.

Mr. Hobson said that making the Tree Warden position appointed is not going to help. He said that two out the three Selectboard members could appoint the same person. Mr. Furtado said the Selectboard could appoint the BPW to take over the Tree Warden position.

"Or they could not," Mr. Hobson said. "You got two Selectmen don't like the BPW and after last week they ain't too happy with us."

In another matter the board discussed the idea of the BPW independent study again. Mr. Furtado said he received a significantly smaller quote for a less in depth financial study for the department.

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Some people say I'm crazy,  
but I'll tell you what, I got  
50 messages from last meeting  
thanking me for speaking my  
mind [Brian Wotton]

---

The study would be for 1-2 days and would focus on touring each department, looking at documents and the five-year capital plan, and speaking with employees.

Mr. Furtado said after the company reviews everything they would present a summary to the BPW, including ways they can save money. It would take the company about five weeks to complete the work and it would cost \$4500.

Mr. Hobson said it was a waste of money. Mr. Coelho said it was a reasonable price compared to the other companies they have looked at.

Mr. Durant said that it was a good price, but the study is not as in depth. The first proposal they received was too in depth and this proposal seemed too narrow of a focus.

Mr. Wotton said he thought this study could be good, but the BPW does not have the money right now. He suggested that the board revisit this study in about six months, and the board voted to do that.

At that point Mr. Wotton explained that this is the time in the meeting for residents

to speak up about any things they are concerned about in town, but no one ever comes forward. He said the BPW is more than happy to help with anything, but the board cannot help if the residents do not tell them.

"For all you Facebook complainers, this would be the time that you want to get that Facebook complaint out there," Mr. Wotton said. "Call us!"

Mr. Wotton said that he and other members monitor Facebook pages as well as they can but... "some we are blocked from because we know the truth."

"So, if you have anything, Facebook complaining gets you nowhere," Mr. Wotton said, adding that residents should call into the meeting or contact a board member.

Mr. Furtado also told the board that he met with the Finance Committee about last year's roadwork that was not able to get done because of a typo in the Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Furtado said he is pretty sure they will get the money to do last year's roads, as well as this year's.

At the meeting they did give him a hard time and made getting the money for last year's roads look "iffy", but he said he believes they will get it.

"If we don't get the money I really hope the residents in town throw their hands up because that's \$340,000 gone from someone's typo," Mr. Wotton said. "Those roads did not get paved because someone made a typo in the town warrant."

Mr. Wotton said FinCom approved the money and now they are trying to take that money away from residents.

"If that doesn't make you furious, I don't know what does," Mr. Wotton said. "Like I said I'm not here to make friends, I'm here to protect you, speak up for you, and to do the right things for this town."

Mr. Wotton said he wants residents to be aware of things that are happening in town.

"Some people say I'm crazy, but I'll tell you what, I got 50 messages from last meeting thanking me for speaking my mind," Mr. Wotton said. "I'm here to represent you and make sure this town is taken care of because I want my kids to live in a great community that I grew up in."

"These things they are doing behind closed doors...it is what is starting to make this town butt heads with everybody," Mr. Wotton said. "Can't you see it...do you see it yet...its happening, open your eyes."

"Mr. Furtado has been fighting for this town for a long time," Mr. Wotton said "He's one of the hardest working people I've ever met and we really appreciate you around here."



# Candidate Statements: continued from page 22

**MARCH: cont'd from page 22**

I believe decisions and progress regarding public education should be flexible and inclusive; families, students and other community members need to be invited to the discussions.

With my experience as both high school math teacher and Math Department Chairperson, I can offer a variety of out-of-the-box problem solving experiences to meet the needs of teachers, students, school budgets, and school and district goals.

I have been involved with Fairhaven Public Schools for just about as long as my residency; initially as a teacher at Fairhaven High School, and now as a parent to two children who are students in our school system.

I have a B.S. in Mathematics and an M.A.T. in Teaching Mathematics, both from UMass Dartmouth. Currently, I am enrolled in an Ed.D in STEM Leadership program at UMass Lowell.

During my teaching career, I have partnered with UMass Dartmouth for research projects and worked in the UMass Dartmouth Upward Bound. I have also worked with students through PRIMES, a joint venture with UMASS Dartmouth and Lockheed Martin.

As a math teacher at Wareham High School, I have collaborated with Cape Cod 5 to establish the "Credit for Life" program, focused on providing students with experiential learning in financial decision making.

My passion for improving our schools is the reason why I'm officially announcing my candidacy for School Committee. Election day is April 5. I hope that I can count on your support.

**MCKENNA: cont'd from page 22**

social, emotional, and mental well-being.

Since my first term in 2012, I have been involved with SMEC (South-eastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative), the Civil Rights Task Force Team, the annual Mr. Fairhaven event for seniors and the Fairhaven High School After-Prom committee. These committees and events remind me of the importance to have someone who has been raised and connected with the community all their life to serve and represent our students.

If you know me, you know I am that individual who fights hard every day to make sure we see every student reach their highest potentials, no matter what it takes.

I think all of us could never imagine in our lifetimes living through a global pandemic. While it has been challenging to navigate how to reopen our schools safely, I am very proud of our work in managing this global crisis to try to make life normal as much as possible for our students.

We continue working towards their social, emotional and mental well-beings by instituting a hybrid model of learning where our students' alternate weeks for in person and online learning. While in person, they have the opportunity to interact with their principals, teachers, staff and peers. Ultimately, this helps create a positive social, emotional and mental environment.

Before this pandemic occurred, we created innovation classrooms at East Fairhaven School and Leroy L. Wood School to help foster creative thinking and public speaking skills as well as initiated a K-2 literacy program to help focus on improving their reading comprehension skills.

Finally, Town Meeting last year approved the process of constructing a turf field at our high school to ensure our students receive the best opportunities available to them at home and showcase their pride on what it means to be a Blue Devil.

With your vote, we can continue this progress to make sure all our students are seen, heard and valued.

On April 5th, I ask for one of your votes for the School Committee.

I can also be reached for questions/concerns at my email [donna.mckenna@fairhavenps.org](mailto:donna.mckenna@fairhavenps.org). Thank you!

**VEITCH: cont'd from page 22**

in a positive direction. Our ability to work together for the common good on annual budgets and capital improvement projects is key to our success, along with our continued emphasis on inclusive education across all aspects of our student population. Our mantra of ALL means ALL is our guiding principle.

Given our current situation, this is more important than ever. Using all available guidance and science, we have constructed the best possible working model to maintain the most contact with children in order to keep them engaged and learning in this time of limits and anxiety.

We are currently working on enhancing our ability to provide social emotional connections and support while strengthening the quality of education as we pull out of the depths of the pandemic. We have an amazing staff of teachers, support personnel, and administrators who are motivated, caring and in this with all their hearts.

Being on the committee over the years has shown me what excellence can do and what to look for when excellence is not being achieved. We have not been perfect, but I feel we have been excellent at identifying when perfection is not met and making the correct decisions to adjust our path.

My work life is centered around providing quality products and excellent service. I have always applied that same work ethic to my time in service to our town. Being educated on the issues, striving to add clarity and simplifying complex situations to get results for our children has been my objective at all times.

In recent years, I have taken a special interest in K-2 literacy and its role in the later success of our children. We have implemented a truly effective program that is already showing results, and I can't wait to see what it brings for their future growth and achievement as learners and young adults in our society.

My role as a father has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and to have the chance to extend my involvement in my children's lives in this way has been an amazing addition.

Please vote for me on April 5th. It would be an honor to continue to serve. Thank you.

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TA and if she believed it was an important measure to address immediately.

She said it was and that there were two trainings in early April on leadership and communication, that Mr. Espindola said staff was apparently unaware of. He asked if she had addressed the staff since her appointment.

Individually, she said, but not as a whole, and not yet with every employee. She also said she had not yet held a meeting with department heads, saying she has been too busy to schedule one. As permanent TA, she would hold monthly meetings, but now she was already busy with budget season and working between 53-63 hours per week.

Mr. Freitas intercepted to have Ms. Graves explain why she has been working up to 63 hours a week, saying, "So the people at home know, so it doesn't seem like you're just avoiding this."

She noted she was working in Human Resources, and, with more prompting from Mr. Freitas, noted she was also the treasurer/collector/finance director (which is one position in Fairhaven), and the acting TA.

"So, that would lead to you not having a lot of time to be doing a few things right now until the position was — either you got the position or somebody else, correct?" said Mr. Freitas.

"Yes," she said.

Mr. Espindola pointed out that Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia "made a conscious decision" to appoint Ms. Graves instead of an outside person.

Mr. Lynch noted that a TA generally does work 50-60 hours a week and said, "That's what you're looking to sign onto, so..."

On several occasions, Mr. Freitas intercepted to explain what he believed Mr. Espindola was trying to ask Ms. Graves, especially about the budget process, and forecasting numbers.

Ms. Graves said her financial policies include keeping 3-5% of the budget in free cash reserves.

Regarding other post-employment benefits (OPEB), Ms. Graves said she thinks the town has \$42 million in OPEB liability. When asked when it would be paid off, she replied, "2028?"

"Really? Okay," Mr. Lynch said.

"2032?" said Ms. Graves. "I don't know, it's far out there."

Ms. Graves admitted she did not have experience in several areas, including grant writing, collective bargaining, economic development, and interaction with several government agencies.

Mr. Lynch asked about the largest capital project Ms. Graves had ever overseen.

"Off the top of my head, I can't think of any," she responded.

Mr. Lynch emphasized the significance of

a human resources department saying, "That's where all the risk and liability exposure is." He asked her for her thoughts on the future HR Department in Fairhaven, which has no Director.

"I would still like to wait a little bit more time and see, because we have two new people," she said, adding that she had not decided on restoring a full-time position or keeping them part-time.

Mr. Espindola asked whether Ms. Graves or anyone in the HR Department now has any training in HR. Ms. Graves said as treasurer she gained experience in benefits, but as far as the other aspects of HR — recruitment, training, health and safety, labor and employee relations, she said, "If I didn't know the answer or what to do, I would do the research behind it. I would call people. I would call who I had to, you know, research it before I do anything."

She said she still has a "manual" from the Suffolk University program. She has gone through the grievance process before but never as the final decisionmaker.

"Selectmen are the final decisionmaker,"

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Mr. Lynch noted that a TA generally does work 50-60 hours a week and said, "That's what you're looking to sign onto, so..."

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she said, but Mr. Espindola questioned the accuracy of that assumption related to the town's TA Act.

Mr. Lynch referred to the Suffolk program and its emphasis on municipal best practice trends. He asked her which one is the most interesting to her as a potential TA.

She paused, and said, "I don't know," and chuckled.

Ms. Graves also said she would not be in favor of a DOR financial management study because the town is in good financial shape and there are too many new employees, who would have difficulty helping with the study.

"Don't you think this would be the perfect time to have the DLS come in and do that report while everyone's new before they're trained on bad practices?" asked Mr. Lynch.

Ms. Graves said she likes to think that during annual audits, DOR would point out any existing bad practices.

Mr. Freitas restated his opposition to a DOR report, which Mr. Espindola has been pushing for months.

What ensued was a stalemate.

Mr. Espindola motioned to appoint

Jennifer Callahan, the current Oxford TA, as he did on 2/16, when she was interviewed with the two other finalists chosen by the SC. Mr. Freitas did not second that motion, but made his own to appoint Ms. Graves. Mr. Espindola did not second that motion, so both motions died.

Mr. Espindola asked Mr. Freitas to reconsider and respect the SC process that yielded the three finalists. Mr. Freitas was self-appointed to that committee, and he said since the process ended, he has learned further information about another finalist that he did not like.

When pressed for details, he suggested Mr. Espindola Google it. He also complained that Ms. Graves was asked far more in-depth questions than prior candidates.

"I think that anybody that watched that thinks that that was a good interview," said Mr. Freitas. "She's been with the town for years. She's had an excellent work history. I don't know anybody that could watch that and say that she didn't do a good job answering the questions — they were different questions than ... the other people — which I thought was great — something she couldn't have looked on TV and waited for."

Mr. Freitas wanted to adjourn but Mr. Espindola would not make that motion.

"We owe an answer to the community on what happens next," said Mr. Espindola.

"I don't know," said Mr. Freitas, adding that he wanted to wait until Mr. Silvia could ascertain whether he might be able to vote.

"Town counsel answered that question for us today," said Mr. Espindola, "saying that that is not the case, even in a stalemate he cannot."

Mr. Freitas could not be persuaded to appoint one of the original candidates, but he mentioned that he would have been in favor of Ari Sky, who withdrew to take the another position during the three weeks Mr. Freitas delayed a final vote in order to interview Ms. Graves.

"You're acting as if I won't come off my motion and I'm screwing up the process," said Mr. Freitas. "Come off your motion and see if we can come between something. Would you be willing?"

"I said 'yes,' I'm willing to appoint Ms. Callahan," said Mr. Espindola.

"You did, and I said 'no,' and you said come off to another one," said Mr. Freitas. "Make a motion for another one."

"The strongest candidate is the one I mentioned," said Mr. Espindola.

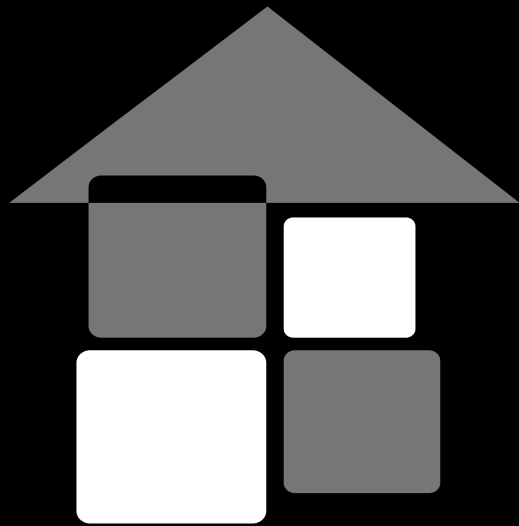
"So, you want me to change to a different candidate but you can't — don't have to change to a different candidate. Bob you're a — Bob, we're moving on because I'm not playing — I'm not going to entertain you anymore tonight," said Mr. Freitas.



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# Bob Espindola

## SELECTMAN

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Alliance President
- **LEADERSHIP SOUTHCOAST**  
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- **FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
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started coming in. This meant we were able to upgrade to the equipment and uniforms the kids deserved. We found volunteers to improve the conditions of the field, and make them safer. Generous donors contributed to upgrading the facilities. We had a vision for how the league could be improved and we were effective in recruiting parents to help. There was a universal feeling of accomplishment as the league began to thrive again.

### SOUTHCOAST BIKEWAY ALLIANCE

Years later, I joined a group called the SouthCoast Bikeway Alliance (SCBA). The Alliance was comprised of a small group of dedicated people, but was struggling with its purpose and identity. The group did have a vision — to connect Providence to Cape Cod with a network of safe cycling paths. The problem: bicycle infrastructure takes many years to design, fund, and build. People didn't have the stamina to stay involved for the long haul without seeing actual progress.

I became the President of the group in 2013. Shortly after, we filed to become a 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization. That opened the door for fund-raising opportunities and grants, which allowed us to complete small projects and keep people engaged. The group is doing great work in recent years, thanks to the good, smart, dedicated people who have come together for a common goal.

### LEADERSHIP SOUTHCOAST PROGRAM

Through my network at the SCBA, I was nominated and accepted into the Leadership South Coast (LSC) Program. The LSC believes that "Cities and Towns with collaborative, multidisciplinary networks demonstrate stronger economic resilience than their peers,

**LEADERSHIP SOUTHCOAST**

PROGRAM CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

Education	Public Health
Environment	Criminal Justice
Arts & Culture	Economic Development
Government	

possess healthier citizens and safer neighborhoods. LSC also believes, "At the helm of civic infrastructure are effective leaders – the decision-makers and stakeholders who can effectively influence policy and drive change."

**"At the helm of civic infrastructure are effective leaders — the decision-makers and stakeholders who can effectively influence policy change."**

The goal of LSC is to "cultivate a diverse network of regional leaders who are prepared and motivated to strengthen and improve the region." The program includes a curriculum in areas including Economic Development, Education, Environment, Arts & Culture, Government, Public Health, and Criminal Justice, with training provided by local leaders and experts in each field.

I believe that my training in other civic roles has fortified my ability to be a strong leader in the roles that I have taken as your Fairhaven Selectman. I hope you'll agree that this is a benefit I have to share with the town, and that you will cast your vote for me to continue to represent you for three more years.

— Bob Espindola

I have been fortunate to be around some very strong leaders in my personal life and in my career. I think of each one as a mentor.

I've learned over the years that every good leader has several things working for them:

*They surround themselves with good, talented people,*

*They find ways to inspire the most from those people around them, and*

*They understand how to add value to the organization through effective leadership.*

### FAIRHAVEN LITTLE LEAGUE<sup>1</sup>

One of my first Civic Leadership roles was in the Board of Directors for Fairhaven Little League. It was an incredibly busy time in my life. With four children active in school and activities and my wife working as a Registered Nurse, I was also attending classes for my Master's degree. But, this role was important to me and I knew I could help make a difference.

In time, I was named President of the league. Our Board wasn't an entirely cohesive unit, but each person had strengths and found ways to contribute. We found the right people to run the concessions, and money

<sup>1</sup> Fairhaven Little League had not yet partnered with Acushnet to become the Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Baseball league.