



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



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with a big voice!

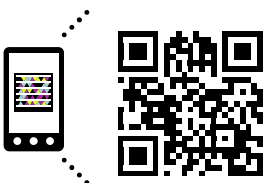
Volume 18, Issue 4 • January 19, 2023

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

Acushnet may just say “no”



After a public meeting by the Acushnet Selectboard on 1/12/23, residents sign a letter to state legislators and the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection opposing DEP's proposed Title 5 regulations that could cost individual homeowners in Acushnet tens of thousands of dollars to replace or upgrade septic systems. See story on page 12. *Photo by Beth David.*



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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.

Well, winter made an appearance, but it looks like it's going back into hiding. That little spurt of snow was fun for the kids. But it was so quick I didn't have a chance to get out there for some good pictures. Ah well. Next time. Let's hope there is a next time. I know we all like the warmer weather, but really, it's January, the earth is dying and we're all like...woo hoo!

Acushnet is front and center this week. They are fighting DEP's new Title 5 regulations (see page 12), and they are not alone. Other towns are also staring to address this very aggressive attempt by the state to fix the nitrogen load problem. I mean, really, guys, this problem has been building for decades. Suddenly we have to fix it in five years? Geesh. And they wonder why no one trusts government. There are still a couple of meetings coming up where you can comment, and the comment period is open until 1/30. See page 7 for info on how to weigh in.

We have other meeting coverage this week. See page 15 for BPW and page 3 for the Select Board.

The SB got all over Bob Espindola for paying attention. Apparently, he's not supposed to give his opinion at the meeting, he's supposed to tell them what he's going to say before he says it so they can have their answers ready (read: arguments).

I do not even know where to begin with that foolishness. You're supposed to be talking about that stuff AT the meeting. That's how it's supposed to work. God bless him, Bob was patient as he explained it to those guys.

I have an idea...if Bob (or anyone) comes up with something new that you want time to mull over and decide on, then continue the item to the next meeting. You meet every two weeks. Meanwhile, Angie will keep the lights on. I'm sure of it.

Your petty little beefs from the "before times" is getting old already. Grow up, do the job. If the meetings are too long for your sensitive constitutions, then maybe you're on the wrong board.

Until next week then...
see ya,

*Glory to Ukraine!
Glory to the Heroes!*



Publisher Beth David with
Charlie, aka Evil Dog

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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Fairhaven SB discusses info sharing; picks annual report pics

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on 1/17/23, the Fairhaven Select Board took some time to discuss creating a protocol for information dissemination. Vice Chair Leon Correy ran the meeting because chairperson Stasia Powers was absent.

SB member Bob Espindola suggested they table the item until Ms. Powers could be present. Mr. Correy, however, said it was not a big deal “one way or another,” and he did not feel Ms. Powers would “feel particularly slighted by it.”

SB member Charlie Murphy said he did not mind having a discussion, but did not want to vote on anything without seeing it in writing.

The issue came up in response to Mr. Espindola using printed documents to lay out his opinion in the last two meetings, which he handed to board members during the meetings. At the last meeting the presentation was also on the screen for members and the public to follow via livestream.

Mr. Correy said the issue was that

they did not have time to prepare because the materials were not provided ahead of the meeting. Mr. Silvia said he would like to get information with the packet so he can read it ahead of time and “make a wise decision on it.”

Mr. Espindola said the materials he presented were his opinion and constituted deliberation, so distributing the materials ahead of time would be a violation of the Open Meeting Law (OML). He said he could simply bring it to the board verbally instead. The reason he provided his thoughts in writing was to make it easier for the board and the public to follow along.

Town Administrator Angie Lopes Ellison said that board members could give her materials and she could give them to the other board members. But Mr. Espindola said that was “serial communication.”

He said the OML was clear that no member of the public body should express an opinion. Ms. Ellison noted she was not part of the public body.

Mr. Espindola also noted the difficult logistics of the request. Board members do not get the

agenda until late on Thursday, so they do not even know what it is they might want to research and comment on. Then the packet is done the next morning, giving them very little time to get materials together to be added to the packet.

“Every meeting that we come to we discuss things that we don’t discuss among ourselves,” said Mr. Espindola, adding that he believed the problem was that the other members do not like the “format” he used.

“I can bring it all in and read it to you,” he said, adding that he would not express his opinion ahead of time, whether through direct sending of documents or through Ms. Ellison until he got something in writing from the state ethics commission saying it was allowed.

He said he would reach out himself to the ethics commission.

Mr. Correy said there was some debate as to whether or not Mr. Espindola’s presentation at last week’s meeting actually fit the agenda, which would violate the OML.

SELECT: cont’d next page



Volunteers Needed

*How can you help during an emergency?
Looking for a way to give back to your community?
Consider joining the Emergency Management Team.*



The Fairhaven Fire Department/Emergency Management Division is looking for volunteers to assist during emergencies and other events. You can choose what tasks you may want to be involved in, and the hours you would volunteer.

Some of the tasks include:

- Shelter Operations
- Pet handling in shelter operations
- Search and Rescue
- Road Closures and Traffic Control
- Snow Plowing
- Fire and Police Rehab/ Incident Support
- Incident Lighting
- Emergency Operation Center — Radios/ Communications/Computer Technology



Training will be provided on the first Monday of each month starting in March 2023.

Join us on February 6, 2023, at the Emergency Management Building, 150 Sconticut Neck Road to learn more and ask questions, or contact Fire Chief Todd Correia at 508-994-1428, or tcorreia@fairhaven-ma.gov

SELECT: cont'd from previous page

"It was rather disruptive," said Mr. Correy, adding that the discussion went down a "completely different path."

He said Mr. Espindola was being "combative" with his comment about what he would not do.

Mr. Espindola apologized if he was "misinterpreted." He said he did not say he would not follow the direction of the board.

"I will not do something that I feel is a violation of the Open Meeting Law until I'm told it is not," he said, and that could take some time. "Meanwhile, I will not send anything to Ms. Ellison."

Mr. Correy countered that Mr. Espindola's presentation at the last meeting was a violation of the Open Meeting Law because it was not on the agenda. He said it added an hour because they talked about two different things in the same agenda item.

The item was goal setting for Ms. Ellison as part of her contract requirements, and Mr. Espindola had thought it was goal setting for the

board and direction of the town.

"Was it crystal clear to everyone?" asked Mr. Espindola. "In my mind what I put together was precisely what related to what we were talking about."

The item was an "Action Item" entitled "Goal Setting step one."

Mr. Espindola said when they meet in person and discuss an item his though process is going to be the same whether he writes it down or presents it verbally.

Ms. Ellison said she would create a protocol based on the discussion that they could discuss at a future meeting.

Mr. Espindola will contact the ethics commission.

Mr. Murphy suggested Ms. Ellison check with the town of Dartmouth to see if they have a protocol.

The board tabled the item for a month.

In another matter, Ms. Ellison announced that Fairhaven TV is a finalist for four Mass. Creator Awards from MassAccess. She said four nominations was "incredible," and

noted that if they win, it will be their third win.

Ms. Ellison also announced that the Wellness Committee is starting a Volleyball team. She said the role of the committee is to try to improve the physical engagement of staff. It is open to town employees, who can sign up at Human Resources.

- In other business, the board
- Approved the collective bargaining agreements for the water department and police dispatchers.
 - Approved an extension of the contract for Blue Stream Shellfish, which has been using the electricity at Hoppy's Landing while waiting for Eversource to provide service to their property. The company is paying for all the electricity, including at Hoppy's Landing.
 - Approved a one-day beer license for the annual Buzzards Bay Swim on 6/24/23
 - Set the annual Town Meeting date back at its traditional first Saturday in May, 5/6/23 at 9 a.m.



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

GOP mtg

Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye! All persons having anything to do, as members or guests of the Fairhaven Republican Town Committee, draw near, give your attendance and ye shall be heard.

Fri., 1/20, at 6 p.m., 32 Abbey St., Fairhaven.

All are welcome. Call 508-863-0416.

Colonial Club Scholarships

It is with great pleasure that the Fairhaven Colonial Club members wish to announce a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to an area high school 2023 graduate attending a 2 or 4 year college in the Fall.

The requirement is that the student should be a Fairhaven resident and the scholarship will be drafted to the recipient upon receipt of their first semester transcript.

Applications and requirements are now available at area high school Guidance Offices.

Boating Class

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Flotilla 65 will be starting its SPRING SEMESTER 12-week Boating Skills & Seamanship Course (BS&S) on Monday, February 6, 2023 through April 24, 2023, from 7-9 pm, at 80 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

This 12-week comprehensive course is designed for both the experienced and the novice boater. It is taught by experienced Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors with years of experience on local waters. It is a perfect introduction to recreational boating fundamentals, such as: boating terminology, boat equipment/handling, boat trailering, lake boating, handling a small to midsize boat, rules of the road, navigation, medical/safety awareness, understanding weather, engines, radios and how to read a nautical chart and chart plotter, buy a boat, tie a knot, handle emergencies, and call in a Mayday.

Many insurance companies will offer discounts on boat insurance to individuals who successfully complete this course. Individuals who successfully complete the course and pass the exam are awarded certificates and cards.

The \$55 fee includes the textbook,

chart and all course material. Family discounts are available for shared materials.

To register online, please go to www.flotilla65.com/public-education.

If you have any questions, please contact MaryBeth Soares, Flotilla Staff Officer - Public Education at (508) 493-5531 or via email: mbsoares11@verizon.net

Goytizolo Scholarship Apps

The Enrique Goytizolo Scholarship, Awarded by the Fairhaven Historical Society annually, recognizes a Fairhaven resident graduating high school senior planning to pursue post-secondary education at an accredited institution of higher learning.

The scholarship is given in honor of Enrique Goytizolo's dedication to preserving the history of the Town of Fairhaven and his vital role in leading the Fairhaven Historical Society for many years.

Who Can Apply: Open to any graduating high school senior who resides in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, and plans to matriculate to an accredited institution of higher learning in the fall.

Application Elements: Application form, three references as specified on the application, and an essay of no more than 400 words focusing on Fairhaven, what the town means to the applicant, and how that has impacted the applicant's interest in future studies.

Application Deadline: April 1 (Applications and essays must be submitted digitally to the email address below).

Scholarship Award Notification: May 1 (Recipient will be notified via email on or before May 1)

Scholarship Amount: One time award of \$1000

Delivery of Scholarship Award: Recognition of receipt of the scholarship will be made at graduation and at the Fairhaven Historical Society Annual Meeting. Actual scholarship monies will be provided to the recipient upon proof of successful matriculation at accredited institution.

Application Review Process: Applications received by the deadline will be reviewed and evaluated by a volunteer committee and one

scholarship recipient will be selected each year.

Other requirements of Scholarship Recipient: A minimum of three hours of volunteer time at the Fairhaven Historical Society Museum or Fairhaven Historical Society events/activities within one year of scholarship award notification.

Contact for further information and Submission Email: historical.societyfairhaven@gmail.com

Journalism Scholarship

The New England Newspaper and Press Association awards up to 10 scholarships each year to aspiring high school seniors and college journalists through the Journalism Education Foundation of New England (JEFNE). Our foundation strives to encourage and support young people who plan to pursue a career in the newspaper industry.

College students and high school seniors who are studying and acquiring work experience that will prepare them to work in the field of journalism are eligible to apply.

The application deadline is March 31, 2023.

For more information, contact students@nenpa.com.

Qualifications:

Be a resident of New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, or VT).

- Must be a senior in high school or an undergraduate college student, studying journalism or a related field, planning to attend college in Fall 2023.
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Demonstrate a serious interest in a career in journalism by sending: a cover letter, transcript, resume or biography, letter of recommendation, AND a body of published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper, or a similar publication AND/OR a body of work prepared for a journalism class.
- The deadline to apply is March 31, 2023.
- PLEASE NOTE: You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your application with a link to a Dropbox folder to upload the required documents.
- Visit <https://www.nenpa.com/scholarship-application/>

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

YTI Presents

Your Theatre Presents *Proclivities*, By Kirsten Greenidge, directy by Eric R. Paradis. One pleasant evening, Doug and Shonda invite their friend Bing over for dinner and drinks. As they ply Bing with wine, the conversation's civility begins to crumble, and we witness each of the trio's run-ins with characters on the edge of their suburban existence — a pregnant waitress, an ether-addicted doctor, a philanthropic street peddler. These experiences converge on the comfortable living room, forcing a choice between continuing on with their disconnected lives, or embracing the possibilities of human kindness.

An entertaining and fast paced look at our proclivities in life and the people we affect along the way

Fri. & Sat., 1/20, 1/21, 1/27 & 1/28 at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1/21, 1/22, 1/28 & 1/29, at 2 p.m. Now two matinees each weekend.

At Your Theater at St. Martin's, 136 Rivet St. (County Street entrance), New Bedford, MA 02744.

Tickets: \$20/gen. admission; \$16/military, seniors, students. To make reservations please call 508-993-0772 or email info@yourtheatre.org f

Masks are not required, but are encouraged.

Fish to Dish

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center presents a series of cooking classes and demonstrations. Classes will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis with tickets available online or by calling us at (508) 993-8894.

"Whole Fish to Dish" with Chef Henry Bousquet. Wed., 1/25, 6-8 p.m., NB Voc High School, 1121 Ashley Blvd, New Bedford. \$25 public, \$20 members

Join us for a cooking class led by Chef Henry Bousquet, Culinary Arts Instructor at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School. Learn how to prep and cook with local and abundant species — from whole fish to dish! Come hungry, the class will include time to eat your creations including a variety of complementary side dishes. Limited spots available; tickets at: bit.ly/FHC-cookingclass-bousquet

First-come, first-serve basis with tickets available online or by calling us at (508) 993-8894.

Vax Clinics

COVID 19 VAX clinic, on Jan. 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pfizer and Moderna, First, Second and Booster doses, for those 6 months and up. Those receiving a dose will also receive a \$75.00 gift card. North End Location: 1534 Acushnet Avenue. For more information call: 508-979-1961

For those contracting COVID 19 this winter, boosters have been shown to lessen the symptoms and to prevent hospitalization.

Sign Removal on Route 6

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing it will be performing sign removal operations on the Route 6 Bridge located over Route 18 southbound and the Route 6 off-ramp at Hillman Street in New Bedford. The work will be performed on Thursday, January 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Alternating lane closures will be necessary to complete the work.

Attention 8th Graders!

Have you always wanted to be a part of Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech but don't know where to start? Well, we have great news for you! The GNBVT Family Engagement Center is hosting two application nights to help students, parents and guardians apply to GNBVT. These two events will be held on January 26, 2023, and February 9, 2023, 1121 Ashley Blvd., New Bedford, in the Student Forum. This is a first come, first serve event and we ask that you register for either date.

GNBVTh offers more than 20 different shops, with a curriculum designed to acquaint the student with the type of work performed and the required skills needed to be successful. In addition to the exploratory program, GNBVT offers a robust athletic program, clubs and many different ways to get involved.

We offer an inclusive environment that values the diversity of our surrounding communities and respects

individual differences which are embraced, celebrated and treated equitably.

First come, first serve, parents need to register for this event.

Students and Parents/Guardians must register for Application Nights at

<https://forms.gle/XJfqibWyVab9SDFB8>

If you cannot make the event, but would still like to apply visit <https://www.gnbvt.edu/admissions/>

SAVE THE DATES

Lebanese Feast/Hafli

Our Lady of Purgatory Marionite Catholic Church presents St. Maron's Feast Day Hafli on Sat., 2/4, at our future home (formerly Our Lady of Fatima Church), 4256 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford

Featuring live entertainment by Ayad Atallah & Bachir Khoury Band; cash bar & mezza at 7:30 p.m.; dinner at 8:30 p.m.

For tickets, call the church office, 508-996-8934, or Sousou Maalouf, 508-916-1523. Dance floor seating, \$85; general seating, \$75; children 12-17 \$40; children under 12, N/C.

Free Women's Shooting Clinic

The New Bedford Revolver & Rifle Club proudly hosts NRA's Women on Target women's instructional shooting clinic on Sun., 2/12, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the NBRRC, 246 Bolton St., New Bedford, MA 02744.

Come join us and receive a basic level of firearm safety instruction so that you will know how to safely handle firearms.

Then under the direct supervision of a Certified Firearms Instructors, you will enjoy some hands-on experience with both revolvers and semi-automatic handguns.

This clinic is FREE for any woman. Just come down and learn the safe and proper way to handle firearms.

This event does NOT fulfill the requirements to obtain your Mass. LTC License

If you have any questions and want to register for this event please contact either Michael DaRoza 508-294-4082 or Dave Maxim 508-295-5821

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

Fall Prevention Presentation

Do you have concerns about falling? Join the Acushnet Council on Aging on Mon., 1/23, from 12:30–2 p.m. for a fall prevention presentation, 59 1/2 So. Main St., Acushnet.

Learn why you should prevent falls, the importance of checking your environment for hazards, simple exercises to increase strength and balance, small changes you can implement to decrease your fall risk.

DEP Title 5 mtgs

The Mass. Department of Environmental Protection has extended the comment period for the proposed Title 5 regulations that could result in the state forcing huge numbers of residents to replace or modify their septic systems.

Two meetings are scheduled on January 24 and 25. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/314-CMR-2100-watershed-permit-regulations> to join the remote sessions

More information on the proposed regulations can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities> and <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-15000-septic-systems-title-5>

Scholarships

Mattapoisett Woman's Club is pleased to offer two \$2,500.00 scholarship awards to Mattapoisett residents who are high school seniors, graduating June 2023.

In addition, there will be a \$1,500.00 scholarship granted to a Mattapoisett resident who is reentering the academic world after graduation and is in pursuit of a post-secondary degree or certificate.

Scholarship applications are available at guidance offices of Old Rochester Regional High School, Bishop Stang High School, Old Colony Vocational Technical High School, Tabor Academy, Bristol County Agricultural and online at <https://www.mattapoisettwomansclub.org/>

Final deadline for returning completed applications March 31, 2023. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered.

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club is a philanthropic organization that

plans and executes fund raising events to help generate the revenue for these scholarships and other charitable donations. In offering these scholarships, the club supports educational leadership and helps to support the community that has partnered with the club in its fundraising efforts. Membership is open to any woman who is interested in the objectives of the organization".

Valentines Dance

St. Joseph Parish presents a Valentines Dance on Sat., 2/11 at 6 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 57 Fairhaven Road, Mattapoisett. Tickets: \$25/adults, \$15/kids under 12, kinds under 5 free. Proceeds to benefit our building fund.

Featuring DJ Carlos Matias, hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, music and dancing, fun for everyone; 5050 and basket raffles.

Cape Cod Bridge Meeting

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will be hosting two virtual public meetings for the Cape Cod Bridges Program at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, and on Thursday, January 26. The purpose of these virtual meetings is to provide the public with updates on the program to date including the bridge types under consideration and identified next steps.

At the meetings, there will be an opportunity for public comments and questions following the formal presentation. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. The meeting materials will also be available on the program website following the meetings for individuals who are unable to virtually attend.

Information regarding the meeting, including the registration link, is available online at: <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>. Once registered, individuals will receive a confirmation email from Zoom with information about joining the webinar.

The proposed Cape Cod Bridges Program consists of replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges, as well as improvements to the

approach roadway networks to address the multimodal deficiencies within the Cape Cod Canal area. For more information, please visit the website: <https://www.mass.gov/cape-bridges>.

Auditions

Bill Hanney's Theatre By The Sea announces Equity and Non-Equity Adult Auditions for its 2023 Summer Season. Seeking strong male and female identifying actors, singers, and dancers. Performers must be available for all rehearsal and performance dates. Local talent is strongly encouraged to audition for *My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra* to be presented from May 24 – June 11; *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* to be presented from June 14–July 8; *The Bodyguard* to be presented from July 12 – August 5; *Jersey Boys* to be presented from August 9 – September 10

Auditions are on Sat., and Sun., 1/28 & 29, at Historic Park Theatre and Events Center, 848 Park Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910. By appointment only.

Additional information and character breakdowns are available at www.TheatreByTheSea.com. Please email casting.tbts@gmail.com with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE:

Photography Talk

"Traveling for Photos and Taking Photos While Traveling" talk by Richard Van Inwegen at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St., on Sun., 1/29 from 2–3 pm.

Do you like to take photographs while traveling? Travel to take photographs? Or do both? Come to the Mattapoisett Free Public Library Artist Series presentation and hear local photographer Richard Van Inwegen share his wisdom about the different approaches between taking snapshots and making photographs.

Using images from several different types of trips ranging from dedicated photo trips to family vacations, he will discuss how the type of travel greatly influences the amount of time spent photographing. He will provide some tips on how to improve the odds of getting good photographs with research, planning, perseverance, and managing expectations.

Recipe of the Week

Mamaw's Chicken and Rice Casserole

3 chicken breasts, cut into cubes
2 cups water
2 cups instant white rice
1 (10.75 ounce) can cream of chicken soup
1 (10.75 ounce) can cream of celery soup
1 (10.75 ounce) can cream of mushroom soup
Salt and ground black pepper to taste
1/2 cup butter, sliced into pats

Preheat oven to 400°. Grease sides and bottom of a casserole dish.

Stir chicken, water, rice, cream of chicken soup, cream of celery soup, and cream of mushroom soup together in the prepared casserole dish; season with salt and pepper. Arrange butter evenly over the top of the chicken mixture.

Bake in preheated oven until the rice is tender and the chicken is cooked through, 1 hour to 75 minutes. Cool 10 to 15 minutes before serving.

From allrecipes.com

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Dear Frankie



Dark Days

Dear Frankie,
I'm very worried about my sister Tammy. She just turned 16 and is not very grown up.

Recently she started dating Brad. He's a senior and the captain of the football team. Brad is charming and a perfect gentleman when he is around my parents. My parents think Brad is great and sing his praises to their friends.

Little do they know how Brad treats Tammy when they are home alone. Last week was the fourth time I found them naked, drinking my dad's scotch and smoking pot.

The worst part is how Brad talks to Tammy when she doesn't do what he wants her to do. Once, he got so mad at her that he punched her.

I don't understand why Tammy doesn't see what a bad actor Brad is and show him the door?

Spunky

Dear Spunky (Cute name)

You have good reason to worry. Your sister and Brad are participating in very high-risk behaviors.

Tammy is young and lacks the maturity to understand that she is in an unhealthy relationship. What I find

particularly troublesome is how easily your parents have taken Brad at face value. I'm also appalled by their lack of supervision.

What parent in their right mind allows their 16-year-old daughter to be home alone, for what appears to be long periods, with a new and older boyfriend?

Long before Tammy started dating, your parents should have been talking with her about dating and healthy relationships.

This situation, I fear, is on a crash course. Let's hope your parents start to wise up before it escalates into a crisis. In the meantime, your only course of action is to bark and growl and have a temper tantrum whenever Brad and your sister start an argument. This will distract them and may help to diffuse the tension between them. At the very least, it will let them know how much their behavior is upsetting you.

Best, Frankie

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Comments and letters can be sent to Frankie at dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com. The Fairhaven Neighborhood News publishes the Dear Frankie column. To receive a free online subscription, readers can email neighbnews@comcast.net, request their name be added to the email list or visit www.neighbnews.com to read the paper online or to download the latest issue.

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Join Fairhaven Recreation on a road trip!! A school bus will leave the Rec center Feb. 23 at 10:30 am to Bally's Twin River!! At 3pm we depart the casino and head to Wright's Chicken Farm for lunch. Meals are included in the cost. Baked chicken, French fries, salad, pasta with Marinara, fresh baked rolls, beverage and a slice of ice cream roll (tip is included). After lunch we head back to the rec center for 5:30pm. Register online or at the rec before Feb 2nd. Call with any questions 508-993-9269. \$50pp Must be 21 to attend

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Fairhaven Council on Aging

Tai Chi Classes

Mondays, 11 a.m. to noon. Next class starts on 1/30. \$30 for the 8-week class. Call the center to sign up: 508-979-4029.

Technology Classes

The Fairhaven Senior Center will host a series of technology classes from basic/novice to expert. All classes will be 90 minutes long, Monday and Wednesday only. Each class will be rated as to how much computer skill the participant should have: (maximum number of participants 10) All participants must preregister for the classes they want to take by either the phone or at the main desk. Next classes:

- Let's learn all about the Apple iPhone Smartphone. Jan. 23 and 25. Must have iPhone.
- Smartphone Apps for Seniors: Jan. 30 & Feb. 1. Part 1 & 2. Must have an iPhone Smartphone.

Mall Trips

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9 a.m.: 1/25, Providence Place Mall, Whole Foods; 2/1, Twin River Casino; 2/8, Warwick Mall; 2/15, South Shore Plaza.

Winter Fuel Assistance

No one should be left out in the cold. It is never too early to apply to

get assistance with paying a portion of your winter heating bills. Please call the COA and speak with Phyllis, 508-979-4029.

All About Reverse Mortgages

Jan. 23, 10:30 a.m. at Fairhaven Senior Center. Please call to sign up, 508-979-4029. A FREE seminar for homeowners 62 years and older to discuss: What is a reverse mortgage; who is eligible; how much can someone receive; what are some of the benefits; what are the tax-free distribution options; how is the reverse mortgage paid.

By East Coast Capital.

Memory Cafe

Jan. 26, noon-2 p.m. Please call 508-979-4029 to reserve a spot by Jan. 23. Lunch will be cheeseburgers. King's Castle Design for a fun craft to follow lunch.

A memory cafe is gathering that individuals with early to moderate Alzheimer's or other memory loss and their care partner, family or friends, can attend in a safe, supportive and engaging environment. It's a time and place where everyone can interact, find support, establish friendships and share concerns without feeling embarrassed or misunderstood.

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Fairhaven nomination papers available

Nomination papers for elected office in Fairhaven are available as of 12/1. Candidates seeking to be elected to office need to take out papers from the town clerk's office and return them with the required number of signatures from registered voters.

Town-wide offices require 50 signatures; town meeting requires 10 signatures from the precinct in which you are running.

Call the town clerk's office, 508-979-4023, ext. 3, for more information on how to run for office in Fairhaven.

Select Board has two seats up for election, held by Keith Silvia and Charles Murphy; School Committee has two seats up, held by Pamela Kuechler and Brian Monroe; Board of Health has one seat held by Michael Ristuccia; Commissioner of Trust Funds has one, held by Louise Ponte;

Board of Public Works has two seats, held by Brian Wotton and Travis Rapoza; Planning Board has two seats up, held by Rene Fleurent and Wayne Hayward; Housing Authority has one seat on the ballot, held by Carol Alfonso.

Precincts will also choose their Town Meeting representatives. All six precincts have 23-25 seats up for re-election and several other vacant seats.

Acushnet nomination papers available

Acushnet's local election is on Saturday, 5/13/23. Nomination papers are now available. Anyone who wants to run for office in Acushnet needs to take out nomination papers, have them signed by the proper number of registered voters, and return them by the deadline. Signatures need to be certified by the Town Clerk. Then your name can be placed on the ballot.

The last day to take out nomination papers is Tuesday, March 21, at 5 p.m. Papers must be signed by at least 42 registered voters in person.

The last day to submit nomination

papers for certification of signatures is Friday, March 24 at 5 p.m.

Officials whose terms expire this year include the following. Positions are for three-year terms unless otherwise indicated.

Moderator, Leslie Dakin, Jr., incumbent; Town Clerk, Pamela Labonte, incumbent; Selectboard, David Wojnar, incumbent; Board of Assessors, one vacancy; Board of Health, Robert Medeiros, incumbent; School Committee, two seats up for re-election, incumbents Ronald Houde, Jr. and Jonathan Teves;

Commissioner of Trust Funds, two seats, Michael St. Onge, incumbent, and one vacancy for remainder of unexpired term ending on 5/17/25; Planning Commissioner, 5 year term, Bryan Deschamps, incumbent; Planning Commissioner, one seat to fill remainder of unexpired term ending 5/15/27; Cemetery Board, Joanne Cioper, incumbent; Library Trustee, two seats, incumbents Danielle Guillemette and Joan Howland; Park Commissioner, one seat, Michael Matton, incumbent; Tree Warden, one seat, Norman Fredette, incumbent.



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Acushnet to fight DEP proposed Title 5 regulations

By Beth David
Editor

The town of Acushnet is fighting mad. The Selectboard, Board of Health, Finance Committee, and a slew of residents are fuming about proposed regulations by the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that could result in individual residents paying tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket for septic system upgrades. The Selectboard held a public meeting on Thursday, 1/12/23 to inform and hear from residents about the proposed regulations. The comment period has been extended until 1/30/23, but town officials and residents say the comment period is just window dressing, and the regulations are already a done deal.

"Find out what happens if we say 'no,'" demanded Board of Health member and civil engineer David Davignon, who called the proposed regulations "pure insanity."

"It's a joke," he said at the meeting, noting that the science behind the changes is flawed.

The proposed regulations are supposed to limit nitrogen going into local waterways, including the Acushnet River and anything that flows into it or is near it. Newly designated Nitrogen Sensitive Areas (NSAs) will be subject to the new regulations, which include limiting the amount of nitrogen that individual septic systems can discharge into the ground. The town will have five years to comply, meaning all septic systems will have to limit the amount of nitrogen discharged into the ground.

The other option is for the town to obtain a watershed permit, which would give it 20 years to comply. But the permit costs tens of thousands of dollars and requires hiring a consultant.



Mr. Davignon said the nitrogen load numbers are unrealistic, and the DEP has not even proven that septic systems are the problem. It is more likely that large treatment plants and large fertilizer users like farms and cranberry bogs are the real culprits, he said.

Mr. Davignon said DEP is going after individual homeowners because it is easier than going after the biggest offenders.

"These people are so arrogant," said Mr. Davignon. "This is a tax without representation."

He urged the Selectboard to consult with town counsel to find out what happens if the town and residents just refuse to comply.

He said that as a Board of Health member he would not enforce the new regulations. The BOH is an elected board in Acushnet.

Selectboard Chairperson David Wojnar told the group of about 50



that board wanted to inform residents, get feedback from residents, and let residents know that the town had an action plan to fight the regulations. He said they had contacted state legislators; prepared a form letter for residents to sign to send to representatives in Boston and the DEP. The town will use the comment period to send a video of the night's meeting. He noted that Rep. Paul Schmid and a representative from Sen. Mark Montigny's office were there.

Mr. Wojnar said the regulations were not a "done deal."

"This is the democratic process at its best," he said, noting how many people had shown up.

"So this is your meeting," said Mr. Wojnar, adding it was an opportunity get "get stuff off your chest."

Rep. Schmid said he was working with Rep. William Straus, who



represents part of Acushnet.

"We are your team," said Rep. Schmid.

He acknowledged that there is a nitrogen problem in the local waters and something needs to be done. He said, however, that DEP's process was not good. He also said the state can help with some funds, and Acushnet can learn from what other towns have done.

Finance Committee Chairperson Mike Boucher said residents will have to come up with \$30-50K if the regulations go into effect.

"I am 100% against this," said Mr. Boucher, saying he did not want to have to come up with the funding for the new regulations. "Especially if we do not even know if we're contributing the problem."

FinCom member Peter Benoit also spoke against the regulations, saying there is no fat left in Acushnet's budget to come up with funding. He also said he felt it was already a done deal.

"You don't find out about it until the vote is already taken," said Mr. Benoit, adding that they need to stop the vote first and then find out if septic systems are even the problem.

The SB showed part of the 10/5/22 meeting, when DEP made a presentation to the board.

Mr. Wojnar encouraged everyone to sign the letter, saying even though it is a form letter, politicians take notice.

"Numbers count," chimed in Rep. Schmid.

"We've got an action plan," said Mr. Wojnar, and letters to politicians from individual residents are part of it.

Anita Davis of Summer Winds Farms said Acushnet did not have many farms left. She said they are being developed into housing, and

TITLE 5: cont'd next page

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the homeowners use chemicals on their lawns.

"It has nothing to do with septic systems. DEP has missed the mark. They're targeting the wrong people," said Ms. Davis, adding that the "P" in DEP is for "protection. "They should protect us, not invade us."

"Science is subjective," said Kevin Smith, who has been battling PJ Keating over dust and chemical smells for years, and finds that DEP was no help in that fight.

Mr. Smith said the Cape towns got money for their Title 5 upgrades, so the rest of the state should, too. In any case, in 20 years the science will probably contradict itself anyway.

DEP has lost the public's trust by failing to engage local leaders, said Mr. Wojnar, saying simply it is not fair, and they need to find a more balanced approach.

Mr. Davignon asked about the town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. SB member Kevin Gaspar said it had been completed, for \$300K, and it affords them the opportunity to apply for the watershed permit.

"I don't even know what to object to," said Rick Ellis, noting that the state's website does not even have all the NSA's defined yet. Even if they did, he said, there are not enough contractors to convert all the systems, as noted on the state's website.

"It's a solution in search of a problem," said Mr. Wojnar.

It is not just septic systems, said Jenn Thomas, so what else is DEP doing?

Mr. Wojnar said they did not know, but had their legislators asking DEP that question.

"None of it makes sense," said Ms. Thomas.

SB member Kevin Gaspar read from the Buzzards Bay Coalition's website, although he did not name them right away, where it outlines how wastewater treatment plants are large contributors to nitrogen pollution, and how the BBC has forced tougher regulations on nitrogen discharge.

"That's the Coalition for Buzzards Bay [sic]," said Mr. Gaspar. "So I guess we know where some of the pressure has come from."

He added that if everyone knows who the biggest offenders are, it should make sense to go after them and not individual homeowners. The state and federal government should be able to come up with funding to pay to upgrade the treatment plants, if they can spend trillions fighting foreign wars.

He said they should fix the nitrogen discharge at the treatment



plants, then test in five years before "you jam it down our throats and say everyone's doing a new septic system."

At some point, Mr. Wojnar, getting a chuckle from the crowd, did remember to ask if there was anyone in the room in favor of the regulations. No one spoke up.

After the meeting Tony Fernandes, his wife Donna, Tony's brother Rick and his wife Debbie discussed options, including simply refusing to comply.

Debbie Fernandes said they should print up "Just say no" lawn signs.

Tony said he was a commercial fisherman and saw how the treatment plant in New Bedford contributes to the pollution in the harbor, especially after rain storms. He said DEP does not want to take on the city, but figures that a small community like Acushnet will roll over.

Donna said there was no proof that private septic systems were the cause of the nitrogen.

Rick said if the state wants the upgrades, then the state should pay for them.

"They won't go after the big plants," Rick. "But they'll attack the little people."

When Debbie said some good people may decide to leave Acushnet, Tony countered, "How will they sell their property?"

"Basically, we're screwed," said Debbie.

Mr. Gaspar said he thought the meeting went well, and was happy to see so many people show up. If people do not get involved, they will get "screwed by big government."

He said everyone wants clean water, but not at any cost, and pointed to solar farms clear cutting trees.

"It's got to be a measured approach," said Mr. Gaspar.

Mr. Wojnar agreed it was good to see the public and the legislators engaged. He said they need to voice strong opposition to the state.

"It's a flawed process," said Mr. Wojnar.

The plan is to submit a package to DEP during the formal comment period outlining the town's opposition. They are also working with state legislators, he said, so Acushnet is protected.

SB member Bob Hinckley said he was happy the town held the public meeting, which gave people "the opportunity to do what DEP would not do for them."

The meeting is available on the town's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMOMxfSk0-8>. See page 7 for information on two upcoming DEP meetings and how to comment.



Obituary



Gerald E. Johnson

Gerald E. Johnson (Jerry) passed away peacefully at home on December 17, 2022. He was 75.

Jerry loved exploring the world with his family, playing ball and reading to the grandchildren, skiing, sailing and dogs. He loved food, especially pastries — witness the raspberry bear claw from the Shipyard Galley — seafood and coffee ice cream.

Jerry was an exceptional father. His devotion to his girls brought him to every dance and musical performance, sports game, track meet and graduation. But beyond that, he bestowed upon them and his grandchildren unconditional love always and demonstrated for them

how to live a life of integrity, one filled with intellectual curiosity and a commitment to serving others. Jerry possessed a steadfast heart and his superpower was making people feel loved and cherished.

Jerry possessed the highest ethical standards and the strongest sense of integrity in work, as in life. He was a proud graduate of Brown University (1969) and Western New England College School of Law (1976). Admitted to the RI Bar (1977) and MA Bar (1978), he opened the Law Offices of Gerald E Johnson in Swansea in 1978 where he practiced until 2018. Jerry often said, "I love the law!"

He served the Town of Swansea as assistant to the Town Counsel from 1985 to 1988, Co-Counsel from 1989 to 1991 and Counsel from 1992 to 1998. According to his associate, Christopher Carreiro, "After all, Jerry is known in these parts as our Town Attorney."

In addition to his legal practice, Jerry was an adjunct professor at the University of Phoenix and Bristol Community College. Jerry served the Town of Mattapoisett, where he lived

for 25 years, as a member and chairman of the Mattapoisett School Committee for 15 years. He was an active member of the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

Jerry was devoted to the democratic process. He used to tell us that he was always in a great mood on election day, saying "Today, I got the power!"

Jerry was predeceased by his parents James and Helen Johnson, brother Jim Johnson, and wife Ginny Johnson. He is survived by his wife, Cindy Johnson of Fairhaven; daughter, Anne Landry and her husband Ryan of Reading; daughter, Emily Johnson and her partner John Concado of New York City; and grandchildren, Michael and Charlie Landry. Jerry is also survived by dearly beloved brothers-and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews.

A service celebrating Jerry's life was held on January 14, 2023 at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church. Should you wish to honor Jerry's memory, please consider contributing to the Buzzards Bay Coalition or the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

Obituary



James P. Booth

James P. Booth, age 76 of Fairhaven, passed away Friday, December 2, 2022 after a brief illness. He was the husband of Veronica G.

Booth to whom he had been married for 37 years.

Born in Corvallis, OR, the son of the late James W. Booth Jr. and the late Kathren L. (Gannon) Booth, he was active in outdoor sports, climbing, hiking, and when it was too cold, skiing.

He met his first wife, Jeanette, while ski racing, and eventually had daughter Rebecka. Jim would go on to work for the Forest Service building trails and fighting fires in the summer and running ski patrol in the winter,

before teaching himself how to code and programming some of the first ATMs on the West Coast.

Jim then moved East to teach computer programming, where he eventually met Veronica and her son Jonathan. After quickly falling in love, Jim and Veronica were married on Valentine's Day in 1985, settling their family in Fairhaven, MA.

He loved sketching detailed wooden boat designs, which he would then build from scratch from his basement. He loved camping and nature and was a constant fixture at Fort Phoenix where he would walk most nights.

Jim was a sixth generation Mason, active in the Masonic Lodge in Fairhaven. He climbed mountains, including Mt. Adams, Mt. Hood, Mt. Rainier, summiting many times. He had a thirst for knowledge and a photographic memory which allowed him to quote directly from books or magazines he had read years earlier. He was a kind and loving father,

brother, husband, and friend, and will be missed sorely by those lucky enough to know him.

In addition to his wife Veronica, Jim is survived by his daughter Rebecka Rivers and her husband Todd of Portland, OR; his stepson Jonathan Green and his girlfriend Jenny He of Los Angeles, CA; his grandson Cliff Rivers; his brother Richard Booth and his wife Vicki of Tenino, WA; and many nieces and nephews. Jim was predeceased by his brother John Booth.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his wake January 20th 5-8pm, with a Masonic service at 7pm in the Waring-Sullivan Home at Fairlawn, 180 Washington St., Fairhaven. His burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his honor may be made to National Parks Conservation Association www.npca.org. For directions or to place an online tribute, please visit: www.waring-sullivan.com

BPW hires for Highway Department

By Mary Chasse

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 1/9 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works hired for the Highway Department, discussed FY 2024 budgets, hydrant flushing, and chose a representative for the Community Preservation Committee. Board member Marcus Ferro was absent from the meeting.

The board interviewed Reed Fournier-Amaral for the job of full time laborer for the Highway Department.

Public Works Superintendent Vinnie Furtado said that Mr. Fournier-Amaral was currently a part time/temporary laborer and has been working for the Highway Department since July. Highway Superintendent Joshua Crabb and Mr. Furtado said they both highly recommend Mr. Fournier-Amaral for the position.

BPW Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said he has met Mr. Fournier-Amaral at the recycling center a few times and he was a great help. Mr. Hobson asked if Mr. Fournier-Amaral was interested in advancing and getting his Class 2 license and he said he was.

The board voted unanimously to hire Mr. Fournier-Amaral for the permanent laborer position for the Highway Department.

In another matter the board briefly discussed the Fiscal Year 2024 budgets. Mr. Furtado presented the board with the packet of budget information and suggested the board take it home to review, and discuss it in detail at the next meeting to give everyone time to read through it.

Board member Anne Morton-Smith asked a question about the money for the bike path overlay. She said she

was curious if the money for that project was in the budget or coming from the Community Preservation Community (CPC).

Mr. Furtado said he did ask for money in the budget for the bike path overlay and he is also asking the CPC for money. He said he will be meeting with the CPC about it in a month or so. He said is hoping with money from both they will be able to do the whole bike path.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton told the board to take the budget information home and read through it so they can discuss it at the next BPW meeting.

In another matter the BPW needed to elect a new board member to be a representative on the CPC because board member Marcus Ferro is no longer able to do it.

Board member Travis Rapoza said that he would be interested in being the BPW representative for the CPC, and the board voted unanimously to appoint him.

In another matter Mr. Furtado said he and Mr. Crabb met with landfill engineers about the cleanup for the area for the recycling center. Mr. Furtado said the design should be done soon. After that they will go out for bid hopefully by May and then break ground as soon as possible.

Mr. Furtado also briefly discussed the fire hydrant rupture on Pilgrim Avenue before Christmas which created some dirty water. He said it is that time of year where pipes freeze and can cause these types of issues.

Mr. Furtado said the water is safe to drink and the town is working to upgrade the filters soon. Meanwhile they are working to hire someone under contract to proactively do

hydrant flushing,

Mr. Furtado explained that right now the town is only flushing reactively when something goes wrong. He said the Water Department employees are too busy doing their day to day jobs and emergency repairs to be able to proactively flush, which is why the town is looking to outsource and contract with a company that can come in to do it.

Mr. Furtado said he wants to create a public service announcement for the town on cable access to explain the water situation and what the town is doing to help with water. Mr. Furtado said they have \$300,000 to hire someone to proactively do flushing at night, but they will not be able to flush when it is very cold. The proactive flushing will help until the town is able to upgrade the water filters.

Mr. Rapoza suggested the town use social media more often especially for things like this to keep the public informed. Mr. Rapoza suggested that the public service announcement Mr. Furtado creates for cable about the water situation also be put on social media. Mr. Rapoza said using social media to show some of the BPW processes might help reach a wider audience and help people understand what is going on so they do not have so many questions/complaints.

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From our readers

Save with Community Electricity Aggregation

Attention Fairhaven Residents,

You may have heard that Ever-source prices went up significantly as of January 1st. Luckily, back in 2016 Fairhaven's Select Board joined forces with 26 local towns and adopted the community electricity aggregation (group purchasing) program to ease our rates.

If you are part of the aggregation program, then your supply rate will NOT go up on your electric bill. Our rate in Fairhaven with the aggregation program is \$0.10865/kWh. If you're not part of the aggregation program, your rate has jumped to \$0.25649/kWh as of January 1, 2023 (!!!) from around \$0.18/kWh in 2022. For the average homeowner, being

part of the aggregation program right now means significant savings.

My family of four used around 420 kWh in December 2022 for a cost of around \$45. If we were not part of the aggregation program, that 420 kWh of electricity in January would cost \$107.73. Now here's what I find truly exciting. My family has opted up to 100% renewable electricity through the aggregation program, which we get at a rate of \$0.14420/kWh. 420 kWh costs \$60.56 at that rate.

Currently, if you're part of the aggregation program you're saving money big time and you're EVEN saving if you're getting 100% renewable Class I RECs through the aggregation program.

How does aggregation achieve these savings? Simple. Buying in bulk and an extended 3 year contract

compared to the utility contract of 6 months.

If you're not part of the aggregation program, you can learn more and join at masscea.com/Fairhaven. You'll know if you're part of it because your Eversource bill will say Constellation Energy — Fairhaven as the supplier. If you have another supplier (unfortunately there are predatory suppliers out there that try to fool consumers; they'll often offer a competitive rate to start and then hike it up over time), you should call them to find out if there is a fee to change suppliers.

Consider the MAGIC of aggregation and email your selectboard member to thank them for being a part of community electricity aggregation!

Laura Gardner, Fairhaven Sustainability Committee Member

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Public Hearings/Legal Notices

NOTE: All legal notices are available on the Neighb News website, www.NeighbNews.com, under the "Legal Notices" tab on the top of the main page. Legal ads are also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>, search under "Fairhaven Neighborhood News"

ACUSHNET CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 122 Main Street, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

- **NOI – Matthew C. Mitchell/33 Beech Street SE 001-0579** A Notice of Intent was filed by Matthew Mitchell for property located at 33 Beech Street, Map 25 Lot 291. The applicant proposes to construct a 2 bedroom addition to an existing 2 bedroom residence, re-locate town water supply, install a septic system upgrade for 4 bedrooms, construct a new retaining wall with associated site work, portions of the work lie within the buffer zone of a marsh. The applicant is represented by Richard Charon of Charon Associates, Inc.–Engineers. Plan name is "Plan of site, addition to residence & upgrade of subsurface sewage disposal prepared for Matthew C. Mitchell" dated December 28, 2022.

Patrick J. Hannon, Conservation Agent
FNN 1/19/23

Acushnet Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals is hereby giving notice that a meeting will be held by the Board on Tuesday, January 31st, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room located at 122 Main Street.

- The following public hearing will be held
1. **Case #2023.01.31A** A case of Tammy Desnoyers, of 14 Budano Drive, who is petitioning the Board for 2 Variances for the construction of a large accessory building. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 "E" (3) c and 3.3.1 "E" (5).

*** Plans are available for public view in the Town Clerk's office, 130 Main St., Acushnet, during their normal business hours ***

FNN, 1/19/23, 1/26/23

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven

Conservation Commission

Monday, January 30, 2023 at 6:00pm

Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, these public hearings will be conducted via remote means.

Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so in the following manner:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86953155076?pwd=VFdUQkhzdVYrNzJIQktiVi9XSzGppZz09>

or CALL 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 869 5315 5076

Passcode: 633695

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, and public participation in any public hearing conducted during this meeting shall be by remote means only.

The meeting can also be viewed on Channel 18 or on FairhavenTV.com.

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold the following **Public Hearings** pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40) and the Code of the Town of Fairhaven Chapter 192, Wetlands:

1. CON 023-332: **74 Reservation Road** Request for Notice of Intent filed by Eric Berg to remove and reconstruct a stone/concrete seawall, at the property located at 74 Reservation Road, Assessor's Map 29B, Lots 8, 9, and 10. Work to take place on a Coastal Beach and within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE, EL.23'.
2. CON 023-333: **38 Reservation Road** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Michael Mikitarian to perform maintenance on the seawall

consisting of filling the voids with small stones and mortar, at the property located at 38 Reservation Road, Assessor's Map 29A, Lot 235. All work to take place with Coastal Beach and Coastal Bank and falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE, EL.16' & 19'.

3. CON 023-334: **157 Balsam Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Donna Olney to replace existing gravel driveway measuring 40'x13' feet with a concrete driveway to remain within the footprint of the present driveway, at the property located at 157 Balsam Street, Assessor's Map 43B, Lot 121. Work to take place within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF).
4. CON 023-335: **40 Nelson Avenue, Map 43, Lot 233** Notice of Intent filed by Christopher Wolkowicz to raze existing house and build new house on flood-compliant foundation with new septic system, proposed septic system to include secondary treatment unit for di-nitrification of wastewater. Work located at 40 Nelson Avenue, Assessor's Map 43, Lot 233. Work to take place within buffer zone of coastal bank and within 100-year flood plain, FEMA Zone VE, EL.19'.
5. CON 023-336: **14 Nelson Ave, Map 43, Lot 32** Request for Determination filed by Daniel Braga to construct 10'x20' patio in side yard (north side of house) that is more than 50 feet from the water. Additionally, the bluestones plan to be embedded into cement, for the property located at 14 Nelson Ave, Assessor's Map 43, Lot 32. Work to take place within FEMA Zone VE, EL.19'.

Information regarding remote meeting access, listed above, will also be provided on the Conservation Agenda posted on the Town's website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Copies of the applications listed in this hearing notice may be viewed at the Conservation Office in Town Hall, located at 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA.

Geoff Haworth, Chair, Fairhaven Conservation Commission

FNN: 1/19/23

MEET OUR AGENTS

TINA NEWMAN KYLE BUENO

Tina grew up in Andover Mass and has lived in New Hampshire and Boston. She immediately fell in love with the beautiful coastlines, incredible architecture, and charm of the south coast so much she now calls Fairhaven her home. She had a twenty-year career in a commercial printing company in southern New Hampshire. She bought her first fixer-upper home in 1995, and turned a passion for carpentry and home repair into a thriving business as a licensed contractor. With over 17 years of experience in remodeling she has worked in hundreds of homes in New England.

This interest led her to a career in real estate and now she uses her experience to help her clients find their dream home.

Tina@howeallen.com
508.542.6861



Kyle Bueno is a proud life-long native resident of Fairhaven and the South coast. He grew up in a Portuguese-Brazilian household and attributes his success and strong work ethic to his family. After graduating from Fairhaven High School in 2014, he went on to Bridgewater State University to pursue his Bachelor of Science in Economics with minors in Political Science and Portuguese and Master's in Public Administration. He serves on the Fairhaven Public Schools Committee. Kyle prides himself on values of integrity, honesty, and empathy in order to make his clients feel comfortable and excited about making an important life decision, the purchase or sale of a home.

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— Margaret Sullivan, “Ghosting The News”

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record that the greatest
tragedy of this period of
social transition was not
the strident clamor of the
bad people, but the
appalling silence of the
good people.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

I learned that courage
was not the absence
of fear, but the triumph
over it. The brave man
is not he who does not
feel afraid, but he who
conquers that fear.

Nelson Mandela

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Public Works
Mon., 1/23, Arsene St., 5:30 p.m.

Charter Commission
Wed., 1/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Economic Devel. Comm.
Thurs., 1/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

GNB Voc-Tech Advisory
Tues., 1/24, GNB Voc-Tech, 6 p.m.

School Committee
Wed., 1/25, Media Ctr., 6:30 p.m.

Select Board
Mon., 2/6, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Finance Committee
Thurs., 1/19, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission
Thurs., 1/19, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee
Thurs., 1/19, Ford MS, 4:30 p.m.

Mon., 1/24, Ford MS, 5:30 p.m.

Selectboard
Tues., 1/24, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Tides		
Date	High Tide	Low Tide
Thu., 1/19	05:22 AM	11:45 AM
	05:46 PM	11:22 PM
Fri., 1/20	06:19 PM	12:40 PM
	06:41 PM	
Sat., 1/21	07:12 AM	12:18 AM
	07:34 PM	01:33 PM
Sun., 1/22	08:04 AM	01:16 AM
	08:26 PM	02:22 PM
Mon., 1/23	08:55 AM	02:13 AM
	09:18 PM	03:50 PM
Tue., 1/24	09:47 AM	03:07 AM
	10:11 PM	03:50 PM
Wed., 1/25	10:39 AM	4:01 AM
	11:04 PM	4:31 PM
Thu., 1/26	11:32 AM	04:54 AM
	11:58 PM	05:12 PM
Fri., 1/27	12:25 PM	05:55 AM
		05:56 PM
Sat., 1/28	12:52 AM	07:21 AM
	01:19 AM	06:46 PM

Greetings from the Tree Department.

Lots has happened since my last update. Please see below a review of 2022. Myself and my small but dedicated crew want to thank you for your support. Without donations for tree planting we could not possibly plant the future of Fairhaven's tree canopy. We can't prevent trees from dying and decay which produces risk to the public. What we can do with your help is to replace those lost trees that we have to remove to maintain public safety. Donations can be made out to: Memorial Tree Gift Fund, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

2022 Annual Report Fairhaven Tree Department

The Fairhaven Tree Department is headed by an elected Tree Warden and staffed by two "per diem" tree laborers. The total budget for the Department including the Tree Warden's stipend is under \$90,000.

In 2022 the Tree Department created a mission statement which is "To Preserve, propagate and maintain a safe, diverse and healthy tree canopy for the town of Fairhaven."

A letter of understanding was

Tree Warden update

drafted and approved by the BPW, Police Department and Tree Department on how tree emergencies are reported after 9-5 hours Monday through Friday.

In 2022 the tree department planted 100 new trees of varying species and size. Half of these were planted in public parks and the other along the town's byways. The majority of the work done to plant these trees was done by volunteers. This brings to a total of 185 trees planted since April 2021. Watering efforts during the summer drought prevented widespread loss of new plantings and only one was lost. Vandalism claimed two new trees in Livesey Park this fall.

A statistical analysis of the number of trees along the towns 110 miles of public roads was performed using 10.2 miles of byway as a data set. 597 trees were counted on a diverse set of byways providing us with a total estimated canopy of over 6000 public shade trees.

A systematic shade tree survey has been initiated in an effort to reduce the number of storm related power outages, damage to property and

road blockages by identifying high risk trees. Once identified the trees are surveyed and appropriate mitigation methods were implemented to mitigate risk. These methods conforming to ISA A-300 standards and removal being the last option considered.

83 requests for service by residents were received, recorded and acted on. 39 dead, diseased or high risk trees were removed. This represents less than 1% of the town's total tree canopy. This number is dramatically lower than that of cities and towns that have proactive public shade tree policies and related programs.

A 3rd party consultant was engaged to do what's most likely the first ever in town formal level 3 tree survey which entails scientific methodology that utilizes state of the art diagnostic instrumentation and data metrics to establish risk level of a particular tree. This event was utilized as a training session as well as data collection event.

*Thank you,
Don Carlos Collasius
Town of Fairhaven Tree Warden.*

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