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Neighborhood News

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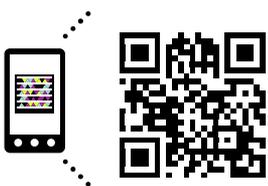
Volume 15, Issue 27 • July 16, 2020

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

Fairhaven swears in two new police officers



L-R: Fairhaven Town Clerk Carolyn Hurley swears in officers Ryan Benoit and Jillian Jodoin to the Fairhaven Police Department during the Selectboard meeting on 7/13/20, while Selectboard members look on in the background, Selectboard chairperson Daniel Freitas, board members Keith Silvia and Bob Espindola. See page 12. Photo by Glenn C. Silva.



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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.

We're baaack. So much to rant about... where to begin?

Ummm...start with page 3 (maybe)? Yeah, that's good. 'nuff said (not really).

The Selectboard refuses to let us into the room to cover the Selectboard meetings. This is, no doubt, a petty little power play by...umm... did you see page 3 yet?

The board allowed Keith Silvia into the room before he was on the Selectboard. No questions asked when the HE just strode into the room. Guess he's special, huh? It's common knowledge he was there, and this was while the building was closed to the public. Really, people, how obvious does it have to get before this foolishness is acknowledged? I STILL waited until the building was open to the public before attempting to attend a meeting in person. Our reporter (welcome back Jean Perry) tried to attend in person and was turned away.

I wrote a letter to the board and asked to be allowed in the room starting with this week's meeting. I got an email back saying something about "consistent with the Governor's orders" and an attachment about public meeting protocols from weeks ago. It is no longer valid in my opinion because town hall is now open to the public. We should be allowed in the room. We should've been allowed in all along. News media are an essential service. Certain politicians don't like that, but we are.

We miss a lot not being in the room. We only get to see what the camera shows us. That is NOT enough.

On the other hand...the last meeting was more than three hours long. Maybe we should be careful what we fight for, huh?

Umm...did I mention you should take a peek at page 3?

I'd also like to know how they made that determination to keep us out. Jean walked into the building, and was asked to stay out in the hall while Bob Espindola checked to see if she could go in. He came back out and said, no... only board members could be in there. So, did they vote? Before the meeting? Open Meeting Law, anyone? They never mentioned it in the public portion of the meeting.

Hmm...I wonder how Mr. Silvia voted. I wonder if he advocated for us to get the same treatment he got. Too late to call him and ask him. Gee, if only they had talked about it in open session, huh? Then we would know.

Ah...who needs that stupid Open Meeting Law anyway?

Oh, and the Board of Health has still not sent a letter to the Selectboard so the vacancy on BOH can be filled. It's been...how many weeks now? Six? (See page 12). Gee, maybe they just like it this way: the two buddies making all the decisions without some other thinking person interfering.

And, did I mention that you should see page 3?

Oh, Universe...your sense of humor humbles me.

Until next week then...see ya,



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our last issue (6/25/20), we made a mistake in our article about how to recall elected officials. In Fairhaven, the petitioners must collect 20% of the number of voters who voted in the previous election. The number of certified signatures, 2,302, was correct. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

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Fairhaven, MA 02719
And, thank you for reading the *Neighb News*!

Selectboard chairperson Daniel Freitas facing A&B charge

By Beth David

Editor

The Fairhaven Police Department has filed criminal applications for Selectboard chairperson Daniel Freitas, 51, and his 18-year-old daughter, to appear in court after they were allegedly involved in an altercation in a parking lot on Wednesday, 7/1/20.

A press release by the Fairhaven PD did not name Mr. Freitas or his daughter but the *Neighb News* and at least two other news outlets have confirmed that Mr. Freitas is the 51-year-old Fairhaven man in the press release.

The criminal complaint seeks to charge Mr. Freitas with two counts of Assault and Battery. The charge against his daughter is one count of Malicious Destruction of Property.

At approximately 9 p.m. on Wednesday, 7/1, Fairhaven Police responded to the parking lot between McDonald's and Sullivan's Tire for a report of an altercation.

According to the press release, officers spoke to Mr. Freitas and his daughter, who were still at the scene.

"Through the subsequent investigation, it was determined that the Fairhaven woman and another woman and her boyfriend got into a verbal argument in the parking lot a short time earlier," reads the press release. "There is a history of animosity between the two women."

According to the press release, the 18-year-old left the scene, but then returned with her father, "and confronted the other woman and her boyfriend who had not left the parking lot."

A physical fight between Mr. Freitas and the boyfriend allegedly ensued.

"The girlfriend tried to break up the fight and the Fairhaven man pushed the woman out of the way," reads the press release.

During the altercation, Mr. Freitas's daughter allegedly kicked the victim's vehicle, causing minor damage.

Both men sustained minor injuries and no one was hospitalized.

Fairhaven Police continued to investigate the incident over the next week, including conducting multiple interviews and reviewing video

surveillance footage. Following the closure of their investigation, the criminal applications were filed with the court on Tuesday 7/7.

According to the press release, the department will not release the names of suspects until the criminal applications have been formally filed by the New Bedford District Court Criminal Clerk's Office. The clerk's office will not release the records until an arraignment date has been set. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, and the court building being closed for weeks, the court is backlogged on scheduling arraignments.

An employee in the clerk's office said that the building opened this week and the court is currently working through the backlog.

When contacted by phone and email for comment for this story, Mr. Freitas responded by email, "No comment."

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Selectboard to assess work culture at town hall

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard on 6/30 initiated the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to retain a consultant to perform an employee engagement and work culture survey to assess the work environment and management of Fairhaven workers and staff.

Town Administrator Mark Rees made the recommendation, saying, "Good management practices suggest that we engage our most valuable asset, which is our team of employees."

He said the concern is to maintain an environment conducive to productivity where the "focus on customer service is critical."

Private businesses often engage an outside consultant, said Mr. Rees, to look at, for example, employee satisfaction, communication, training, and to assess what works well or needs improvement.

"And identify other concerns that could be addressed to enhance overall work environment at Town Hall," he said.

Selectboard member Bob Espindola said he was concerned about the cost and whether now was the right time, given the financial uncertainty in the wake of COVID-19.

"I think doing something like this is very healthy and would be great for the town to do," said Mr. Espindola, although his perception of Town Hall's lack of significant turnover in employment suggests to him that he is "not sure if there's an issue here".

Mr. Rees proposed seeking a grant through the Massachusetts Community Compact, which the Town signed in 2017.

"If we could get a grant for it I would be absolutely in favor of it," said Mr. Espindola, just as long as the taxpayers receive some benefit in return. "And I'm not sure I understand what that is yet."

According to Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas, the existence of "a morale problem at Town Hall" has persisted for some time.

"All three of the former selectmen, we received letters from certain individuals," said Mr. Freitas. "I don't think there's any denying it — well, we could deny it, but then there's the letters."

Mr. Freitas referred to a meeting he attended where Mr. Rees and

Attorney Jamie Kenny of the law firm Clifford & Kenny were both present, adding that he "tried to get this [assessment] off the ground" at that time.

"It didn't go quite well," said Mr. Freitas. "I was basically asked to ... identify the people who were talking to me in private ... and I just didn't think that was fair."

He said Ms. Kenny suggested he should "pull up my big boy panties" after he found one letter discussed during the meeting "unfair."

Mr. Freitas then volunteered to make the motion for an RFP for the assessment as long as the motion included his demand that the law firm Clifford & Kenny not be a participant.

"I don't want Miss Kenny anywhere near this report," Mr. Freitas said, and he further scorned Ms. Kenny for her alleged unfairness and disrespect toward him. "I don't want her

[Mr. Freitas] said Ms. Kenny suggested he should "pull up my big boy panties" after he found one letter discussed during the meeting "unfair."

anywhere near it. I don't think that she was very fair with me in the way things happened.... It wasn't handled very well as far as I am concerned."

Mr. Freitas also offered to remove himself from the RFP process and the ensuing assessment and allow another Selectboard member to "take the forefront and deal with it."

"And I don't want the report to come through me," added Mr. Freitas. "And that's how I feel. I think this has to be handled in a way ... so that people feel they can speak and not have to worry ... I don't think people should have to identify themselves."

Mr. Espindola likened the matter to putting the proverbial cart before the horse.

"Because we don't even know what we're approving. We don't have a proposal. We don't know what the cost is," said Mr. Espindola.

He called the motion "premature."

Mr. Rees reminded Mr. Espindola that the board was simply requesting proposals without any commitment.

"Can anybody deny that we haven't received letters?" asked Mr. Freitas.

"We received one letter and we received an anonymous letter," said Mr. Rees.

"No, sir," said Mr. Freitas, specifying that the particular letter he handed to Mr. Rees was "confidential" rather than "anonymous," in addition to other emails about a morale problem at Town Hall.

"It's not just one," said Mr. Freitas. "I'm not making this up."

"I'm not disagreeing," Mr. Rees replied.

"For the record, I welcome this report," he continued, adding that because there are some "disgruntled employees with their own agenda in their hand," an independent party should be engaged to assist.

"So now you are saying there are disgruntled employees," Mr. Freitas said to Mr. Rees.

"Yes," Mr. Rees confirmed. "[I'm] saying there may be some with their own agenda."

"My question is," said Mr. Freitas, "Shouldn't we do everything ... and absolutely get to the bottom of this?"

"Absolutely," Mr. Rees replied.

"At that meeting I was treated not so nice," Mr. Freitas again lamented.

Mr. Espindola reiterated his support for the assessment, but only if the cost is covered by a grant, and proceeded to voice his 'nay' in a 2-1 vote in favor of sending an RFP.

Following the conversation, Mr. Espindola proposed a sequel to the 2012 Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services (DLS) financial management review that resulted in 33 recommendations to improve financial practices, procedures, and policies.

At no cost to the Town, Mr. Espindola said the DLS would study the COVID-19 financial impact on the town and recommend whether strategic cuts in services and withdrawals from the finance reserves might be needed to balance future budgets.

Meanwhile, the town still faces costly mandated wastewater treatment plant upgrades and a tentative

SELECT1: cont'd on page 20

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

July 4 video

Due to the pandemic, all July 4 festivities were canceled, including the parade and car cruise, and activities at Fort Phoenix. The Fairhaven Cable Access crew, however, put together a great video, which includes messages from town employees and great footage of the harbor during boat illumination night. You can find the video on the town's cable access website: <https://www.fairhaventv.com/communityvideos>.

Cultural Council Seeks Input

The Fairhaven Cultural Council would like to hear from you! The council is asking Fairhaven residents for their opinions about what types of arts and humanities-based projects should be prioritized for Local Cultural Council grant funding. Grant monies are provided by the state through the Massachusetts Cultural Council and from the Town of Fairhaven.

To participate, residents may complete the survey online at <https://forms.gle/MJCSNhNj6tp2xhoP9> or visit the Fairhaven Cultural Council Blog at <https://fairhavenculturalcouncil.blogspot.com> for the direct survey link. **Deadline to complete the survey is July 31, 2020.**

In addition, the council is always seeking new members and welcomes any Fairhaven resident interested in joining the council to contact chairperson William Levasseur at wjlevasseur85@gmail.com for more information.

Fitness in the Park

Nine years and counting! During these uncertain times, one thing is for sure — we are looking forward to being outside getting fresh air and exercising in a safe way. The South Coast community can keep fit and stay healthy with free exercise classes taught by two of the top fitness instructors in the area. Due to COVID-19, restrictions are in place this summer. Attendees will be required to wear masks to and from the field and practice social distancing, keeping a distance of 6 to 8 feet between mats.

Fitness in the Park is scheduled free to the public this summer for 8

weeks of Yoga and Exercise classes in Cushman Park, Green St. Fairhaven. Classes are **Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. through August 27.**

TUESDAYS: Yoga in the Park with certified yoga instructor, Jeff Costa, E-RYT 200. For all levels.

THURSDAYS: Summer Bootcamp, with certified personal trainer (A.F.P.A.), Wayne Goulart. The Bootcamp class consists of various exercises that build functional strength and core stability.

Attendees to the classes should bring a mat for Yoga and a mat plus set of weights for Bootcamp. Classes take place weather permitting — cancellations will be posted on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/fitnessincushmanpark

Fitness in Cushman Park is presented free to the public thanks to the generous support of our community sponsorship team. Last summer's classes were another resounding success.

For more information about Fitness in Cushman Park call 508-287-2482 or email sgrace@encorent.com or info@jeffcostafitness.com

Please like Fitness in Cushman Park's Facebook page to stay involved: www.facebook.com/fitnessincushmanpark

EcoChallenge

This Spring the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee again participated in Earth Day EcoChallenge. The challenge was extended this year to a 30-day environmental and social engagement program. From April 1–April 30, participants selected actions to take that aligned with their individual values and made a 30-day commitment to complete those actions, all the while practicing and reinforcing good habits. For every action that was completed, participants earned points and created impact. All the points contributed to your team's total points, and individual impacts contributed to our collective impact.

TEAM SOUTHCOAST had another successful year with 153 participants earning 17,062 points and coming in number 13 out of 818 teams across the country and number 1 in Massachusetts.

We were very excited to participate all month long and know that many members will continue

to practice new actions that were started in this very successful program.

If you missed the Spring challenge, you can start in July when everyone can participate in the Plastic Free EcoChallenge. Plastic Free Ecochallenge is a month-long effort for all of us to reduce our single-use plastic consumption in creative and innovative ways while still prioritizing public health and safety during this pandemic.

Look for more information on the town's website or visit <https://plasticfree.ecochallenge.org> to join Team SouthCoast.

Farmers Market

At the Bright Yellow Farm Stand, 151 Alden Road, Fairhaven (next to National Bleach). Sundays through 10/25, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Featuring beef, chicken, produce farms, honey, eggs, herbs, jams, organic soaps and bath salts. Accepts senior and WIC Farmers Market Coupons, SNAP.

Please practice social distancing and wear a mask.

Contact: 508-496-9209; allnaturalbeef@comcast.net

Huttleston Marketplace

Saturdays, through Sept. 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fairhaven Visitors Center Lawn/Fairhaven High School Lawn, 141 Main Street, at Route 6, Fairhaven

An outdoor bazaar featuring vendors selling select hand made arts and crafts, quality antiques and vintage collectibles, upcycled items, fresh farm produce, and locally prepared foods. It is a MDAR certified farmers market, allowing certified farm vendors to accept WIC and Senior FMNP coupons. It is held rain or shine. COVID-19 precautions, such as social distancing and mask wearing are required.

Visit <https://fairhaventours.com/huttleston-marketplace-weekly/> for vendor information.

For further information, contact the Fairhaven Office of Tourism at FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov or by calling 508-979-4085; on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/HuttlestonMkt> and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HuttlestonMarketplace/>.

Selectboard considers voiding Rogers P&S, but holds off

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard discussed the Rogers School project at both its 6/30 and 7/13 meetings, ultimately deciding not to void the Purchase & Sale agreement...yet. At the 6/30 meeting, all three board members voiced their frustration that developer New England Preservation & Development (NEPD) failed to adequately meet the milestone of providing substantial information about its chosen architectural firm, Civil Environmental Consultants, LLC (CEC), with a proposed construction timeline.

The board received several letters of concern from Rogers School Study Committee members with recommendations to disengage from the P&S agreement if the developer did not submit the information.

Selectboard member Keith Silvia's concern was that CEC appeared to be more of an "environmental consulting firm" that conducts tasks more like land surveying and less like building/restoring. Furthermore, he said, "We don't have a bond. We can't move forward without one.

"The first thing we have to do is protect the town," said Mr. Silvia.

Board member Bob Espindola commented that he was "deeply concerned."

The only one representing NEPD remotely during the meeting on 6/30 was Skip Matos, an unfamiliar name to the board. He said the developer hired him two weeks prior as a consultant to get NEPD "on track" with its financial statements and with getting the 135-year-old building onto the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Rees stated that while he was also unfamiliar with Mr. Matos's name, Michael Ristuccia, who had consistently been involved in the project since the start, mentioned to Mr. Rees that he planned to step back from the project and that NEPD would bring a new person into the fold.

Mr. Ristuccia was recently elected to the Board of Health, is a former member of the Board of Public Works, and his grandson, Zachary Mayo, owns NEPD.

The Selectboard, however, had no confirmation of Mr Matos's authority

Mr. Espindola walked the board through a review of CEC's website to demonstrate what he perceived as "red flags" that could suggest that CEC has little, if any, experience with development projects involving historical buildings like Rogers School.

"I have zero faith that this is a good

thing for us and the town and we have just wasted a lot of time," said Mr. Espindola, also pointing to the progressive decline in the structural integrity of the old school. "I think it's time ... to move on [and] execute our agreement that we had that if they don't come through with something."

He suggested that the town "mothball" the building to preserve it, and added, "If they want to come back ... then they can agree ... to pay for the cost of the mothballing that we've had to incur."

"I have to agree," said Mr. Silvia. "We have to mothball it or it's going to get worse."

Looking at the website, Mr. Freitas said to Mr. Espindola, "I think you picked out what I found it lacking." Specifically, information, he said.

"It's not just the website," said Mr. Espindola. "Even in a written proposal they would typically provide something



The Rogers School is due to be re-developed into housing units, but there have been delays. *Neighb News file photo by Beth David.*

with the qualifications ... [and] examples of work they've done ... but the proposal says the same things that are on the website."

Mr. Freitas expressed his "major concern" that the project has hit the \$4 million mark, saying the engineering firm was going to "do all this work for a very reasonable price," with \$35,000 representing less than one-percent of the total cost.

"I really wanted this to happen, I really did," said Mr. Freitas, adding he wished town counsel were present to advise the board.

"Did he give you any advice?" he asked Mr. Rees.

No, replied Mr. Reese, and he suggested the board motion to provide him with details of its dissatisfaction to review with town counsel. Mr. Rees then mentioned a June 15 letter from him to the developer announcing that the board

would be considering a void of the purchase and sale agreement during the meeting.

Mr. Matos interjected to suggest that it would be beneficial if Mr. Ristuccia could speak on the developer's behalf before the board voted to void the contract, "But I understand the position you're in at this point."

Mr. Espindola said the parties were made aware of the potential outcome of the meeting and should have responded appropriately.

"My patience is gone," said Mr. Espindola. "I am just...we need to move on."

Then during the Selectboard's July 13 meeting, Town Counsel Thomas Crotty joined the conversation, as did Mr. Ristuccia, who said he was not there to speak for Mr. Mayo:

"In fact, he doesn't even know I'm speaking to you now," said Mr. Ristuccia, who also said that Mr. Mayo was unaware of the last meeting and the board's intent to void the contract, and no one sent Mr. Mayo Zoom information to attend.

Addressing the financing contingency, Mr. Ristuccia said the letter from the lender confirming financial backing for the project was submitted in accordance with the contract's timeline.

"I thought it was going to be a very simple thing," said Mr. Ristuccia. "But the Town did not accept the letter as to satisfy that condition. At that point, I was mystified, as was Mr. Mayo. From then to the next meeting ... three months passed by with nothing happening."

He said the Town did not ask for any plans, just to solve the financing issue.

"The Town had a responsibility to honor its purchase and sale agreement and it did not," said Mr. Ristuccia. He said the board then voted to prepare a new contract with proper timelines to be amended and executed. "That was wonderful and it was the right thing to do, I thought."

He said he suggested to Mr. Rees that the project should go before the Planning Board to keep the project on the right track, but that Mr. Rees advised him to speak with Economic Development & Planning Director Paul Foley because it would be quicker.

In further defense of Mr. Mayo, Mr. Ristuccia said COVID-19 had much to do with the delay in satisfying certain aspects of the contract. With Town Hall closed, Mr. Ristuccia said, "Nobody's there working — and that doesn't mean

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that anybody is at fault, it just means that we're in a pandemic. Things are difficult."

Mr. Ristuccia claimed that engineering and architectural firms were deemed non-essential and that the state "ordered them closed" and that "getting any plans was impossible." But Mr. Espindola later stated that was not true, as he has worked with engineering firms through his own employment during the pandemic.

Mr. Ristuccia also said Mr. Foley's voicemail provided the wrong email address to contact him, with the timeline due a week later as per the contract.

Mr. Mayo and Mr. Foley were finally able to meet, said Mr. Ristuccia, "Unfortunately, it was an hour or two before everything was needed to be turned in.

"[Mr. Mayo] did the best he could," said Mr. Ristuccia.

"He just thought they were going to vote for it," said Mr. Ristuccia. "[He] didn't know he could defend himself."

He said Mr. Mayo submitted the documents and thought, "I'm all set; they're not going to terminate the agreement."

Mr. Ristuccia regretted that the board did not consider COVID-19 before motioning to void the contract.

"The bottom line is that the three months after [the Selectboard rejected the financing letter], which met the conditions mentioned in the purchase and sale agreement, led to the delay in the three months of time," said Mr. Ristuccia.

According to Mr. Ristuccia, Mr. Mayo did not attend the 7/13 meeting because he "sought counsel in the Boston area to talk with them about what his rights are in regards to the term of the purchase and sale agreement."

"I, as a resident of this town, do not want to see anything but what's intended to happen here: the Rogers School being converted into what it's supposed to be and the project moving forward," said Mr. Ristuccia.

He asked the board to reinstate the contract with a final submittal date of September 30, 2020.

"If [Mr. Mayo] does not have all those documents in by that date, I agree, let's cancel it," he said. If he does, he continued, "then everybody is getting what they want.

"It makes a lot more sense to do that than to argue and fight whether conditions were met when it's pretty clear to me that it was met," said Mr. Ristuccia.

Mr. Espindola said, "I don't think there's a single person associated with this project that wants to see this fail."

He said he wondered how Mr. Mayo could not know about the last meeting when he sent a representative, Mr. Matos, in his place. He said his great concern was Mr. Ristuccia's statement that he did not speak for Mr. Mayo and that Mr. Mayo was unaware that he was there.

"That, to me — I don't understand how anything he's saying right now is not ... for Zachary Mayo," said Mr. Espindola. "[Mr. Mayo] doesn't seem to speak. We always hear things from Mr. Ristuccia and now we hear that Mr. Ristuccia doesn't speak for him."

Mr. Freitas said he has asked multiple times to get all parties to meet, adding that he can't recall the last time he had a conversation with Mr. Mayo.

"I want this project to move forward, but there's been a lot of things that I have to question," Mr. Freitas said, one being

The town really wanted to see this project work. We amended the zoning bylaw to make this project feasible, to make it a permitable project, a way to save the Rogers School building [Thomas Crotty]

the cost of CEC's services, which is significantly below the anticipated 10-15 percent of the project's total cost.

During the discussion, Mr. Crotty called the engineer's low fee "frankly laughable," saying, "No engineer in his right mind would ever throw out a number like that, it's just not feasible."

Furthermore, Mr. Crotty addressed the finance letter he said seems more like a letter of interest and less like "a binding contract" for financing.

"A financing company ... comes forward and enters into a contract with the buyer saying that if you meet these conditions then we will finance this project," said Mr. Crotty. "A binding contract that they will get the money for this project — no ifs, ands, or buts. And that, we never saw."

Mr. Crotty further stated that he had asked the financier to meet with him, but they refused to travel down to Fairhaven.

"Not due to COVID, just the time spent," said Mr. Crotty.

"The town really wanted to see this project work," said Mr. Crotty. "We amended the zoning bylaw to make this project feasible, to make it a permitable project, a way to save the Rogers School building."

Now, however, "We have to have a strong feeling that, actually, it will get done. Everything we've seen indicates that it is not getting done or won't be done," Mr. Crotty said, pointing to the "drop-dead date" of July 23.

Mr. Freitas, still hopeful, wondered if a last ditch effort to get all the parties together for a meeting before the 23rd was feasible.

"I'm willing to give it one last shot, but there's certain criteria that's going to have to be met, and the sooner the better," said Mr. Freitas.

"But wanting it to happen and having a feeling that it actually can happen are two different things," said Mr. Crotty.

If the suggestion went beyond "wishful thinking," Mr. Crotty said, "Then sure. We can do that. Pick a time frame that you're willing to let this sit."

Mr. Espindola said if the board makes a concession on the deadline then the contract should include a provision for the developer to pay for the needed mothballing.

Mr. Freitas emphasized that any concessions granted would be for further weeks, not months. Furthermore, he said now that Mr. Ristuccia is an elected town official he should separate himself from the project.

"From here on out I would think that we need to hear from Mr. Mayo because he is the president of that company," said Mr. Freitas.

First, though, Mr. Ristuccia wanted one last chance to speak and explain the low cost of the engineering, which he said was roughly \$35,000-\$40,000.

"Thirteen years ago [I did something for the engineer] which changed his life and he will be forever indebted to me," said Mr. Ristuccia, which is why the cost is "practically nothing."

He then said he was confident that a meeting could happen next week.

Mr. Espindola motioned to meet with the parties prior to July 23.

Mr. Freitas added: "I need to see something from a bank that says we are green-lighted on this ... This is the last straw, the last gasp."

"It has to be something that looks like a real project," said Mr. Espindola. If so, then the contract could be amended. "I'd love to see that happen."

Light 2020

*See the Light in Downtown
New Bedford*

Last summer DATMA (Design, Art, Technology Mass.) gave us Silver Current, a spectacular tribute to wind and its role in New Bedford's past and future. **On view now, LIGHT: 2020 updates New Bedford's legacy as the "City that Lit the World"** with a renewable energy lens. Amid our global health crisis, our exhibits can be seen safely via car, bicycle, or on foot. To provide respite for those watching from home, we'll make sure to share every detail via our website (<https://datma.org>) & social media.

PHOTO KINETIC GRID by light sculptor Soo Sunny Park. View at the corner of Union & Purchase Streets at the UMass Dartmouth Star Store Campus. Day & evening viewing hours: all day– midnight from now until September 14. This project is very visible from the street and sidewalks through the building's floor to ceiling glass gallery windows. A special thanks to UMass Dartmouth CVPA for hosting this exhibition in their new Swain Studio corner space.

Fish Center is open

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center has reopened. The Center's hours are Thurs.–Sun., 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Visitation will be limited to 10 guests at a time, social distancing protocols will be followed, and masks will be required.

Our reopening also marks the launch of our latest exhibit, *We Came to Fish, We Came to Work: Stories of Immigration*. The Port of New Bedford has long drawn immigrants from around the world. Despite differences in language and culture, a highly-valued fishing industry developed, drawing on the strengths of immigrants from all over the world, including Norway, Cape Verde, Guatemala, Nova Scotia, Vietnam, and Portugal. *We Came to Fish* explores stories of immigration and cultural heritage on New Bedford's working waterfront.

The Center's 2020 exhibits and programs are funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Creative Commonwealth Initiative, and the Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and New Bedford Cultural Councils.

Contact programs@fishingheritagecenter.org

Walking Tours

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center offers small group walking tours of downtown New Bedford and the working waterfront. These tours will provide guests an opportunity to learn about New Bedford's history and fishing industry while being outside and socially distanced.

Tours will explore topics including the history of the fishing industry, life in a fishing family, and the ins and outs of a contemporary waterfront. Group size will be limited to 10 guests and a tour guide. Guests are encouraged to wear masks while on tour.

Guests are encouraged to buy tickets ahead of time at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4640757>. **Tours are \$5/person, children under 10 are free**, members of the Fishing Heritage Center are free. Dog friendly if dogs are leashed!

Tour begins in the parking lot at the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center and ends at Pier 3. Plan to meet in the parking lot at least 5 minutes before the start of the tour. Following the tour, guests may return to the Center to tour our exhibits. Tour lasts approximately one hour..

Upcoming Tours: Sat., 7/18 at 11:00am Email programs@fishingheritagecenter.org to learn more.

A note from YTI

Hello to all our Your Theatre family!

We want you to know that we haven't forgotten about our Patrons.

We hope that you and your family are safe and healthy. As much as we all enjoy going to the theatre, social distancing has been and is still a way of life.

We are planning for a wonderful Season 74, but until we have guidelines for Live Performances, we will not be able to announce when our season will begin.

Please check Facebook and/or our website for some YTI Trivia and entertainment.

Please know that we are all thinking of our fantastic patrons and that we miss performing for you. Your Theatre is here to stay, at St. Martin's and some day at The Steeple Playhouse!

Keep well, stay safe, and We'll See You at the Theatre!!

The Your Theatre Board, Artistic Directors, Staff, Actors, Technicians, and all Volunteers

Artmobile

New Bedford Art Museum/ Artworks! is excited to provide the artMOBILE for its 25th summer! The artMOBILE vans will be rolling around New Bedford through August 21.

Operating much like a bookmobile, the two purple vans, each with two experienced art educators, engage children with fun educational art activities at community sites across New Bedford.

- Mondays: Riverside Park and Keith Middle School, 11-11:45 a.m.; Carney and Lincoln schools, 12:30–1:15 p.m.
- Tuesdays: Clasky Common Park, 10 a.m.–noon.; Fort Tabor, 1–3 p.m.
- Wednesdays: Ruth Street Common 10 a.m.–noon; Ashley Park, 11–11:45 a.m.; Hayden-McFadden and Campbell schools, 2–2:45 p.m.
- Thursdays: Eddie James Park and Hazelwood Park, 10 a.m.–noon; Harrington Park, 1–3 p.m.
- Fridays: Buttonwood Park, 10 a.m.–noon; Roosevelt Middle School, 12:30–1:15 p.m.; Gomes Elementary School, 2–2:45 p.m.

Visit <https://newbedfordart.org/artmobile/> for the schedule as it is subject to change.

Free masks

Under the MaskNB distribution plan, interested residents in each of the City's six Wards will have an opportunity to obtain free cloth face masks on the following dates:

- Wards 1 & 2: Sat. 7/18, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at Normandin Middle School, 81 Felton St. (use Orleans St. entrance)
- Wards 3 & 4: Sat., 8/1, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Keith Middle School, 225 Hathaway Boulevard
- Wards 5 & 6: Sat., 8/8, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Middle School, 119 Frederick Street

Four neighborhood walk-up distribution events are planned in neighborhoods across New Bedford for residents of those neighborhoods only. These smaller distribution events will be held at pop-up tents and observe social distancing in public spaces across the city on the following assigned dates in these locations:

- Ashley Park: Tues., 7/21, 3–5 p.m.
- Serenity Gardens: Thurs., 7/30, 1–3
- Loretta Bourque Park: Thurs., 8/13, 10 a.m.–Noon

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Shark Videos

Did you know that 7/14 was Shark Awareness Day? Healthy oceans have healthy shark populations. NOAA Fisheries manages commercial and recreational shark fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean, and we work with three regional fishery management councils to conserve and sustainably manage sharks in the Pacific Ocean.

Watch our top five shark videos to get a closer look at our work with these top ocean predators. Visit https://videos.fisheries.noaa.gov/category/videos/sharks-rays?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Atlantic Recreational Shark Fishing: Handling and Release

Learn more about prohibited shark identification, including dusky and other ridgeback sharks, and tips for safe handling and release. This video includes information on permitting and regulations for recreational shark fishing in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean.

Shark Conservation and the Spiny Dogfish

Listen as Tobey Curtis, a NOAA Fisheries shark researcher, talks about the importance of shark conservation and describes his work with spiny dogfish conservation in the Atlantic Ocean. By conducting stock assessments and surveys, NOAA Fisheries established a recovery plan to rebuild the spiny dogfish population that had been overfished for much of the 1990's and 2000's.

A Symphony of Sharks

NOAA Fisheries proudly presents an ode to sharks and shark research.

A Mako Shark's Last Meal

See a NOAA Fisheries biologist, Antonella Preti, perform a gut analysis on a 12 foot shortfin mako shark weighing 1,323 pounds. By analyzing the contents of shark stomachs, we help build a database of who eats who in the ocean, an essential tool in managing fisheries.

A Mako Shark's Last Meal - Part 2: The Shark Bite Effect

In 2013, the world record mako shark was caught off the coast of California. In Part II, see sea lion survivors, and how their wounds provide important insight on the state of sharks in southern California.

Visit <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov>

Sammy Davis, Jr.

A Man for All Seasons, Get to Know Sammy Davis, Jr. Watch a free biography of Sammy Davis, Jr. at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_7ywmiqcTE

OSV open

Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) has reopened, offering a new advance ticketing and online reservation system. Using the new online reservation system, guests will be required to purchase tickets online at <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/> and select one of three time blocks per day for arrival: 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Once in the village, visitors are welcome to stay until the museum closes at 5:00 p.m. Members will continue to receive free admission based upon membership level but must still reserve their time slot in advance.

OSV will welcome "Kids FREE" during the month of July, with up to three kids age 17 and younger admitted FREE into the village when accompanied by an adult paying full standard daytime admission.

Visitors with a complimentary admission pass or special discount of any kind should call the Old Sturbridge Village visitor center at 508-347-0213 or email visitorcenter@osv.org to reserve their date and time.

Old Sturbridge Village will be open from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, rain or shine. Available tickets and time slots will be released each week on Wednesday for the following two weeks.

Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary seasonally. Daily admission is: \$28 for adults, \$26 for seniors, \$14 for College Students, \$14 for children ages 4-17, and children 3 and under are admitted free. Each admission includes free parking. Village Members and Season Pass holders receive free standard daytime admission. For details, visit <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

Coggeshall Farm Open

Coggeshall Farm Museum has reopened. Observing regular daily

hours from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Thursday-Sunday, guests will be able to purchase tickets at the door for **just \$10 for an adult standard daytime admission pass.** Parking will be limited and state guidelines closely observed, admitting all guests on a first-come, first-serve basis.

During the month of July, Coggeshall will offer a "Kids FREE" promotion, with up to three kids age 17 and younger admitted FREE into the museum when accompanied by an adult paying full admission.

As a Blue Star Museum, Coggeshall welcomes active duty military and veterans, and their families (up to 6 people), to receive complimentary admission to the museum, as well as 25% off tickets for additional members of their party. Teachers within the New England area receive buy one, get one tickets or can purchase a single adult pass for half price with a valid teacher ID.

Coggeshall will also honor reciprocal membership with its sister museum and managing partner, Old Sturbridge Village (OSV).

Set on 48 acres of coastal farmland in Bristol, R.I., Coggeshall Farm Museum tells the story of the Coggeshall family farm in the late 18th-century.

For more information on tickets, "Kids FREE" in July, the Coggeshall experience, or on-site safety policies, visit: <https://www.coggeshallfarm.org/visit/hours-rates-directions/>.

Visit Gloucester

Get your new Discover Gloucester Guide. As you begin planning weekend getaways or visits full of exploration, order the new Official Discover Gloucester Guide. In addition to the guide, you will receive access to our website full of Gloucester, Cape Ann trip ideas and the Summer Safety Best Practices with our KNOW BEFORE YOU GO Check List.

While travel this year will look somewhat different, with a little planning ahead you can be sure to have a memorable and magical visit to Gloucester. To receive a copy and to view the online guide visit <https://www.discovergloucester.com/visitors-guide/> To check out this week's events, visit <https://www.discovergloucester.com/events/>

Recipe of the Week

Mexican Grilled Corn

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 tbs ground ancho chile pepper
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 8 ears corn on the cob, husked
- ¼ c butter, melted, or as needed
- ½ c freshly grated Cotija cheese
- salt to taste (optional)
- 1 lime, sliced

Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat and lightly oil the grate.

Combine mayonnaise, lime juice, ancho chile powder, and smoked paprika in a bowl; whisk until smooth. Refrigerate until needed.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Boil corn in the salted water for 5 minutes. Drain the corn.

Place ears of corn on hot grill and cook until the kernels begin to brown and caramelize, 2 to 3 minutes. Turn the corn and continue to cook, turning ears after 1 to 2 minutes, until they are browned with slightly charred, caramelized spots.

Generously brush corn with melted butter and ancho-lime mayonnaise until kernels are coated. Sprinkle ears with Cotija cheese and salt. Garnish with slices of lime.

COVID -19 update

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts has continued to see a decline in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, prompting Governor Charlie Baker to increasingly allow more businesses to open up, putting Mass. in the third phase of its four-phase approach to re-opening businesses.

Restaurants are now able to have indoor seating, although they have strict, reduced occupancy requirements. In Step One of Phase III, begun last week the following businesses were allowed to open, subject to industry-specific rules concerning capacity and operations: Movie theaters and outdoor performance venues; Museums, cultural and historical sites; Fitness centers and health clubs; Certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact; Professional sports teams, under the authority of league-wide rules, may hold games without spectators

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts-for-details-on-which-businesses-are-open>.

Since mid-April, the 7-day average for the positive COVID-19 test rate is down 94 percent, the 3-day average of hospitalized patients is down 79 percent and the number of hospitals in surge is down 86 percent.

The new guidelines also include a change in the number of people allowed in public gatherings.

Indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space. Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible.

Visitation guidelines have been updated for 24/7 congregate care facilities and programs overseen by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Offsite visits, including overnight visits, will be allowed, under specific guidelines. Other updated guidelines, including visitation for long term care facilities, will be released later today. Complete visitation guidance is available at www.mass.gov/hhs/reopening.

MassHealth will also extend its current telehealth flexibility through at least the end of the year to ensure member access to critical health care services and encourage continued adherence to preventative public health precautions.

The state has also lifted quarantine restrictions from anyone in the New England states, New York and New Jersey.

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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Acushnet officer assaulted responding to July 4 party

Acushnet Police Department
Press Release

On Saturday, July 4, 2020, at approximately 11:46 p.m., Acushnet Police were dispatched to the area of 21 Nye's Lane for fireworks being lit off in the area. The first responding officer located the source of the complaint.

As the officer was concluding his investigation and speaking with the homeowner, a male guest at the residence became belligerent. The 35-year-old man appeared intoxicated and was slurring his speech as he screamed and yelled. He began approaching the officer in a threatening manner and was initially held back by family members. He was able to quickly break loose and charge at the officer.

The male then grabbed hold of the officer's shirt. The officer tried to create distance by pushing the male away but both individuals fell to the ground. During the struggle on the ground, the male struck the officer with a closed fist at least four times in the face and head and, at one point was grabbing at the officer's

holstered firearm.

Despite this, the officer was able to maintain his composure and radio for assistance before his radio microphone came detached in the struggle. Several family members attempted to intervene to assist the officer. The officer eventually was able to regain some control over the male and kept him pinned down for the 2-3 minutes it took for the first back-up officer to arrive. Even then, the male continued to violently resist before officers were able to get him handcuffed. The male then began spitting at officers.

Arrested was Robert D. Nobrega DOB 2/5/1985, of 80 Blueberry Terrance, New Bedford. Nobrega is being charged with Assault and Battery on a Police Officer, Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (to wit: spit).

The involved officer was evaluated by paramedics from the Acushnet Fire & Rescue Department but declined transport to the hospital and remained on duty.

Nobrega continued his behavior

and spit in the cruiser he was transported in as well as the booking area at the Acushnet Police Department. Once the booking process was done, Nobrega was transported to the Bristol County Sheriff's Office Regional Lockup on Ash Street in New Bedford pending bail. He was expected to be arraigned on Monday, July 6, 2020. A 24-hour biohazard cleanup company had to be contacted to respond to clean and decontaminate the affected areas.



Robert Nobrega faces charges after allegedly assaulting an Acushnet police officer in 7/4/20. Bristol County Sheriff's Office booking photo.



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Fairhaven swears in two new police officers

By Beth David

Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard moved its meeting upstairs to the auditorium of the town hall on 7/13/20 to swear in two new police officers. The larger room allowed for family members to witness the ceremony and still stay six feet apart as pandemic guidelines recommend.

Town Clerk Carolyn Hurley administered the oath to Ryan Benoit and Jillian Jodoin. They both graduated from the police academy at Joint Base Cape Cod on Friday, 7/10.

Mr. Benoit, 28, served as an MP with the 772 Military Police Company. He has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from UMassD and graduated from New Bedford Voc-Tech in Engineering Technology. He was also a squad leader in the academy.

Ms. Jodoin, 30, was a dispatcher with the department. She serves as an E4 specialist in the Army National Guard as a Chemical, Biological, Radiology, and Nuclear Specialist.

In a phone interview, Lt. Kevin Kobza, Fairhaven PD spokesperson,

said the two new recruits faced "unique challenges" due to COVID-19 restrictions. Luckily, they had most of the physical conditioning behind them when the restrictions hit, but they still need the Physical Fitness Test. They had to train for that on their own.

"Despite these challenges both recruits managed to make it through successfully," said Lt. Kobza.

He said both officers did well in their training, despite having to take some classes online due to the pandemic.

"We wish them the best of luck for a safe and successful career with the Fairhaven Police Department," said Lt. Kobza. "We are happy to welcome them to the department."

Mr. Benoit and Ms. Jodoin began field work on Monday with Lt. Kobza, and began patrols on Tuesday, each assigned to a unit with an experienced officer.



L-R: Officer Ryan Benoit and Officer Jillian Jodoin stop in front of town hall for a photo with the local free sheet after being sworn in to the Fairhaven Police Department on 7/13/20. Photo by Glenn C. Silva.

Selectboard frustrated w/BOH; PD talks speeding enforcement

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard on 7/13 expressed its frustration over the inability to appoint a new Board of Health member because the BOH has still not taken action to begin the process.

According to Town Administrator Mark Rees, the BOH must address a letter to the Selectboard declaring a vacancy before a joint meeting can be held for the two boards to make the appointment.

BOH member Michael Sylvia abruptly announced his resignation during a BOH meeting on June 16.

Selectboard member Bob Espindola pointed out that now the two-member Board of Health, Peter DeTerra and newly-elected Michael Ristuccia, has even met three times since Sylvia's resignation but has not taken the required action to fill the vacant seat.

"My point," said Mr. Espindola, "[is] they have known since very shortly after June 16 ... and I don't understand why, in a 15-minute meeting, they couldn't afford the time to vote and

make this request to the [Selectboard]."

The matter of appointing a BOH member appeared on the Selectboard's July 7 meeting agenda, but no action or proposal was made during that meeting.

Mr. Espindola said he has received numerous concerns from the community.

"Why hasn't this been done?" said Mr. Espindola. "The town deserves a three-member board."

Just then, Selectboard Chairman Daniel Freitas got a text from an unidentified person stating that the BOH would vote to send the Selectboard the letter on July 16, the date of the BOH's next meeting, which Mr. Espindola had pointed out earlier would be exactly 30 days.

Mr. Freitas said the problem with this is that the Selectboard would then have to wait to take action until its next meeting on August 17. Mr. Espindola suggested the Selectboard should be proactive and immediately present the Board of Health some possible dates for a joint meeting.

In another matter, Police Chief

Michael Meyers and Lieutenant David Sobral addressed residents' concerns about vehicle speed enforcement and briefly described the Police Department's speed control measures.

The Police Department has been "making strides," said Chief Meyers, through increased traffic patrols and portable radars that monitor speed.

Through a grant, the Town was able to purchase two portable radar signs that affix to utility poles that display vehicle speed and also collect data. These signs, Chief Meyers said, are regularly moved to different locations often dictated by speeding complaints lodged by residents. The department then uses the data collected from the portable radars to determine which areas actually do have a speeding issue.

"We try to emphasize our patrols ... in those areas that we can determine are significant," said Chief Meyers.

Lt. Sobral said sometimes the data collected from areas with high numbers of complaints actually indicate that speeding is not that frequent, saying that "99 percent of the time" drivers are

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operating at or under the speed limit.

Mr. Freitas suggested the Town should purchase more portable radar signs, and Chief Meyers suggested an additional six to eight more, possibly through grants. The average is \$2,500.

Residents can lodge speeding complaints or request that a portable radar be moved to a specific location at fairhavenpolice.org/speed-enforcement/.

"We just ask that people be patient," said Chief Meyers. "We will get to you; and if we don't then just keep notifying us. We'll get there. That's what we want to do."

Further down on the agenda, Town Counsel Thomas Crotty said he reviewed the final draft of a new policy on displaying flags at Town Hall and suggested it was comprehensive enough for the board to approve.

Mr. Freitas introduced a new concern, however, over a possible law that might forbid the display of banners or flags at Town Hall because of its historical status. Mr. Crotty said he was not familiar with that law and that he would look into it on behalf of the board.

Mr. Freitas said he was otherwise fine with the policy as written, but does not want to inadvertently break any rules.

Planning Board Chairperson John Farrell, attending the meeting remotely via Zoom, asked why the board chose this point in time to create and adopt a flag policy, which Mr. Freitas said came about at the suggestion of Mr. Crotty as the Selectboard was discussing a request to display the rainbow LGBTQ Pride flag with a petitioner.

Mr. Freitas said the concern was that once the town approved the display of one flag, "Someone come in and say we want to fly the Nazi flag."

Mr. Freitas said it could get controversial if the town were to say yes to one petitioner and no to another.

Mr. Farrell said he found the timing of the creation of a new flag policy "a little suspicious" and "a little disturbing to me" as the matter arises just after displaying the rainbow flag at town hall during June, traditionally LGBTQ Pride month.

Mr. Rees reported that an Employment Engagement/Work Culture Study could be pursued under a grant from the Community Compact, but the state has not yet released a Fiscal Year 2021 budget allocating grant funds. A

Request for Proposals (RFP) has been drafted and is awaiting submission, but the board took no further action on the matter.

The Conservation Commission stated its support for a proposed 10-percent increase in sourcing clean, renewable energy under the community electricity aggregation (CEA) program in a letter addressed to the Selectboard that Mr. Freitas read aloud.

Under the current contract that will soon be under renegotiation, all Fairhaven energy consumers that did not opt out of the CEA source a minimum of 18% of their electricity from a renewable energy source as mandated by the state, with increasing increments over the years to reach 35% clean energy by 2030. Individual consumers have the further option to

I don't understand why,
in a 15-minute meeting,
they couldn't afford the
time to vote and make
this request to the
[Selectboard]
[Bob Espindola]

increase that amount up to 100% clean energy.

The ConCom urged the town to be an example to other South Coast towns and adopt the 10-percent increase, as Fairhaven is a designated Green Community and the clean energy increase would further decrease Fairhaven's carbon footprint.

Mr. Espindola stated that he was not in favor of the increase because although the average consumer would only see a roughly \$2 increase in their monthly bill, commercial consumers could see a more considerable impact.

"And that's my concern," said Mr. Espindola. "I feel for them...."

Residents can find out more and participate in an online survey until July 20 by visiting www.fairhaven-ma.gov/home/pages/community-electricity-aggregation.

In other matters, the board pledged to assist Cathy Melanson and her

attorney, John Markey, as they seek a solution to the sticky situation surrounding the transfer of a liquor license caught in red tape.

Ms. Melanson owns 111 Huttleston Avenue, the location of the defunct Cleary's Pub that is now slated for a new restaurant.

According to Mr. Markey, the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) has halted the transfer of the liquor license because the owner of Cleary's Pub has unpaid state taxes and has indicated that they do not have the means to pay it off. Mr. Markey said this is a state regulation and does not involve the town, but the town could assist in one of numerous ways, including drafting special legislation for Town Meeting to vote to approve an additional liquor license in town.

Selectboard members expressed their desire to see the new business up and running, giving Mr. Markey the go-ahead to research possible solutions and work with the state before proposing any action from the Town.

"Whatever we can do to help, I'm 100% behind it," Mr. Freitas said.

As discussed at the last meeting, the board approved redistributing the board's committee liaison positions more evenly across the three Selectboard members. Mr. Silvia acquired Historical Commission and Millicent Library Board of Trustees, from Mr. Freitas, and Cable Advisory Committee from Mr. Espindola.

The board approved and signed a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Management Plan as required by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to address stormwater runoff.

The board agreed to explore adopting new zoning appeal procedures, guidelines, and record-keeping policies to mitigate potential future litigation that could be avoided through better communication among the Zoning Board of Appeals, building commissioner, planning & economic development director, and town administrator. The board will seek assistance from the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD).

The board voted unanimously to approve a 2-percent cost of living increase for all elected official salaries, except for the Selectboard, which will see no increase.

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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.

- **Transportation** The COA vans will run Monday through Friday Beginning at 8:00 a.m. for in town shopping and errands as well as daily trips to Market Basket. All passengers will have their temperature taken before entering the van and all passengers must wear a mask while on the van. The van will be thoroughly sanitized after each use. Volunteer medical transportation has not yet been resumed.
- **Farmers Market Coupons** Fairhaven seniors, 60 years old and older, can call the Fairhaven Senior Center to sign up for \$25.00. Farmers Market coupons at 508-979-4029. There is a limited number of coupons available and will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. The coupons are tentatively scheduled to be distributed in July.
- **Osteo Class** Osteo Class has

resumed on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30-9:45 a.m. weather permitting. The classes will take place outside near the Bocce Court under the shady trees. Please wear a mask. All chairs will be properly sanitized before and after use.

- **Chair Yoga** Chair Yoga has resumed classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:15-11:15, weather permitting. Classes will be held outside under the shady trees near the Bocce Court. The \$3.00 donation can be given directly to the instructor. Please wear a mask. All chairs and mats will be properly sanitized before and after use.
- **The Dental Hygienist** will resume appointments at the Fairhaven Senior Center starting August 11, 2020. Please call her directly for an appointment at 774-766-7238. All proper sanitization will be utilized.
- **Free Food** Call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 to see if you qualify for free food each month from the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Community Foundation changes name

Press Release

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts is now the SouthCoast Community Foundation, the organization announced 7/7 at its 25th Annual Meeting.

The Foundation unveiled its new name and logo at the virtual event, also announcing that the organization awarded nearly \$3.5 million in grants and scholarships in 2019.

John Vasconcellos, Foundation President, said the new name reflects the momentum, excitement, and aspirations of this region, as well as a growing sense of regional identity. The new name does not change the foundation's commitment to continuing to serve all 41 cities and towns in our region, he said.

The new name also underscores the Foundation's position as a leader and convener of philanthropy in the

SouthCoast. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of regional cohesion, as leaders in health care, government, business, and social services have come together to respond to this health and economic crisis. We are proud to be a leader in this response through the SouthCoast Emergency Response Fund, which since the start of the pandemic has raised more than \$4.2 Million and has awarded more than \$2.6 Million to non-profits that are on the frontlines of helping the region's most vulnerable communities through this crisis.

The Annual Meeting celebrated the awarding of more than \$3 Million in grants to nonprofits during 2019. In addition, the foundation awarded more than \$450,000 in scholarships to students in the region, five percent more than the previous year's total.



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Acushnet Selectboard welcomes David Wojnar back

By Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet Selectboard had a quick meeting on 6/30, the first after the election. They re-organized the board and welcomed David Wojnar back to the board. He last served as a Selectboard member in 2016, after 18 years on the board.

Board member Kevin Gaspar, began the meeting by introducing and welcoming Mr. Wojnar.

Mr. Wojnar said he was "glad to be back."

He thanked residents for the vote of confidence to have him back in office and said he was impressed with what the town has in place.

"My pledge to you, gentlemen, is to look at things not as I used to do them, but how I could've done better," said Mr. Wojnar.

Mr. Gaspar asked for a re-organization of the Board. Board member David Desroches nominated Mr. Gaspar for chairperson and he was elected at chair.

In another matter, the board heard from AES regarding a feasibility study for the roof replacement on the

elementary school. The recommendation was to remove the top asphalt layer, leaving the insulation in place, another new layer of insulation; replacing flashing and trim as needed. The total estimated cost of construction is approximately \$1.9 million with an additional approximately \$1 million for soft costs, such as project managers, contingencies, if hazard materials are found.

Mr. Gaspar stated he had some concerns that this was just coming before them for a vote to move forward to present it to the Mass. School Building Association (MSBA) by July 8. He stated that the board needs to digest the information and feels that they are being "pushed into a corner to make a decision."

He said the date of July 8, was not a good date for him and he would hope for an extension to their next scheduled meeting of 7/14. Mr. Gaspar reminded the Board that the Selectboard would be asking the Town residents through a special ballot to vote on this and a special town meeting would also be needed.

The Selectboard will discuss the

matter at tis July 14 meeting to approve and submit to the MSBA, which reimburses a percentage of building projects to school districts.

In other business, the Selectboard promoted Melissa Forge to Town Accountant, she was formerly the Assistant Town Accountant.

The board appointed Nicholas Montacello to be the Assistant Town Accountant. He is the producer of the Selectboard cable meetings.

Mr. Gaspar chuckled and stated that Mr. Montacello was going to continue to produce the cable meetings until they could find someone else.

"But it is nice to appoint an Acushnet resident to this Assistant Town Accountant position," said Mr. Gaspar.

Mr. Gaspar advised Town Administrator Julie Hebert to have a plan for re-opening Town Hall to the public. Mr. Gaspar stated the staff has returned, but they now need to have a plan to re-open to the public.

Mr. Wojnar stated he will hold a meet and greet with town employees, and he was excited to be back.



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BPW bickers over Marine Resources rep, ending with tie vote

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Tuesday 6/22 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed voting on a new BPW representative for the Marine Resources Committee, and also hired a parking attendant for the weekends for the Town Beach.

Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said he wanted to discuss the BPW representative position on the Marine Resources Committee. He said that last year he gave up his seat on the MRC so that BPW member Frank Coelho could stay on the committee as the Chairperson. He asked if they could switch off every other year, taking turns as the MRC representative.

Mr. Coelho explained that he never would have run for the BPW position if he knew it meant he would not be able to be on the MRC.

Mr. Hobson explained that no one guaranteed Mr. Coelho a spot on the MRC when he ran for the BPW.

"You're only upset with me because you walked out of a meeting over nothing," Mr. Hobson said.

"I'm not upset with you," Mr. Coelho said.

"We have been friends for 50 years," Mr. Hobson said. "And I haven't spoken to you since that night."

Mr. Hobson said if Mr. Coelho does not get his way he just picks up his things and leaves.

"Evidently if you don't get your way you walk out, like Mr. Silvia on the Board of Health. He didn't get his way so he quit," Mr. Hobson said. "Are you a quitter?"

Mr. Coelho said that the board should just vote for a representative.

Chairperson Brian Wotton said that the BPW used to have one representative for the MRC and a secondary in case the first one had to be absent. He said both used to attend the MRC meetings, and suggested they go back to having two people.

Mr. Hobson said that he wanted to be the member not the secondary. Mr. Hobson said he never told Mr. Coelho to run for BPW and he did not guarantee that Mr. Coelho would stay on the Marine Resources Committee.

Mr. Hobson also said he did not understand why the BPW needed a representative on the MRC anyway.

He made a motion to nominate himself as representative on the Marine Resources Committee. Mr. Wotton seconded the motion with board member Cameron Durant and Mr. Coelho against.

Mr. Coelho made a motion to nominate himself as representative on the Marine Resources Committee.

Mr. Durant seconded the motion and said that he had a conversation with Mr. Coelho two to three months ago and promised him a vote. Mr. Durant said at the time he did not know there was other interest or debate about the representative position.

"I don't care, it has nothing to do with the Board of Public Works," Mr. Durant said.

Mr. Hobson and Mr. Wotton voted

Evidently if you don't get your way you walk out, like Mr. Silvia on the Board of Health. He didn't get his way so he quit
Are you a quitter?
[Robert "Hoppy" Hobson]

against the motion, therefore neither motion passed.

Mr. Hobson said that they should motion not to have a representative on the MRC.

Mr. Durant explained that whoever is the representative is only there to speak about BPW issues and that he does not care who is at the MRC meetings but they are there to serve the BPW.

"I'm not happy about this, and I'm not going to leave the meeting like he did," Mr. Hobson said pointing at Mr. Coelho.

Mr. Hobson said if Mr. Durant does not care then he should vote to have no member. Mr. Hobson said that Harbormaster Tim Cox calls BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado if he needs something anyway, so why does the BPW need a representative.

Mr. Furtado said he did not think that they could vote not to have a representative.

Mr. Hobson told Mr. Furtado to go

to the Selectboard and tell them they do not need a representative.

"He (Mr. Coelho) got to you before the meeting," Mr. Hobson said addressing Mr. Durant. "I should report you and him to the ethics committee, because you're discussing business and it's unethical."

Mr. Coelho and Mr. Durant said it was only the two of them speaking, not the whole board.

"You're the guy that reports everybody," Mr. Hobson said to Mr. Coelho. "You reported him (Mr. Wotton) three times,"

Mr. Hobson said he is reporting them.

"This is why I did not want to do this," Mr. Wotton said, adding that they should have waited until they got a new BPW member.

Mr. Wotton said until they get a new BPW member it stays as Mr. Coelho being the representative, and they can revote when they have a full board.

In another matter Mr. Furtado said they will be hiring a parking attendant at Town Beach for the weekends.

Mr. Furtado said the person they have hired is Gary Lavalette and he will be meeting with the police to discuss protocols and rules that need to be followed and monitored.

Mr. Hobson said he is concerned about people parking on Fir Street and walking in. They need someone older person working the parking lot because it is hard for teenagers to tell residents they cannot go in.

Mr. Furtado said he has requested no parking signs for Fir Street.

The board voted 3-1 to hire Mr. Lavalette as the weekend parking attendant. Mr. Coelho voted against it because he said they should have advertised the position.

The board also met with Raul Moreira. BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado explained that Mr. Moreira has been paying the \$20 permit fee for the recycling center for the last few years for his truck.

Mr. Furtado explained that BPW Administrative Assistant Becky Vento noticed that the gross weight of the vehicle was over the 10,000 pound limit and the truck was categorized as a dump trailer, which means that a recycling permit for that type of vehicle would be \$400.

Mr. Furtado said that Mr. Moreira

BPW: cont'd next page

Acushnet Ladder 1 lights up for July 4



Acushnet's Ladder 1 is lit up in red, white and blue lights on July 4, 2020, for Independence Day, a year when most events were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo by Glenn C. Silva.

BPW: cont'd from previous page

brought the title of his car which states his vehicle is actually 9,900 pounds and the RMV rounds up or down the weight of vehicles now.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton said it may be they can classify the truck as a non landscaper vehicle of over 10,000 pounds and the cost of the permit would only be \$100.

Mr. Wotton said that the problem is that the truck is categorized as a dump trailer.

Mr. Hobson said that the rules are the rules, and they really should be charging people by the weight of the load like other cities and towns do, not a permit, just pay by the load.

Mr. Coelho agreed that they should stick to the rules.

The vote to allow Mr. Moreira to use his truck within the \$100 permit ended in a tie because the board is down one member after Keith Silvia was elected to the Selectboard.

Mr. Wotton and Cameron Durant voted yes, while Mr. Hobson and Mr. Coelho voted against it.

Mr. Wotton said Mr. Moreira can return in two to four weeks when the BPW has a fifth member and they can go back for a vote of the full board.

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SELECT1: cont'd from page 4

plan to build a new public safety facility, Mr. Espindola said, with board member Keith Silvia later adding that those costs combined would be roughly \$80 million.

Mr. Espindola said the DLS would review the 2012 recommendations still in progress, as well as look for any new areas where best practices have been developed over the last eight years, and any new resources, tools, or funding sources.

The only recommendation Mr. Espindola suggested the DLS not review is the one the voters rejected: eliminating the elected Board of Public Works. He asked the Selectboard to approve allowing Mr. Rees to pursue the review.

"I'm not in favor at this time," said Mr. Freitas. "The last time this was done ... it created sort of a hornet's nest ... Some stuff was good, other stuff upset people. I don't want to see us going there."

Mr. Espindola agreed the BPW recommendation was controversial, which is why he would now ask to omit it from the study.

"There were some tremendous recommendations ... that have been an enormous asset to the town," said Mr. Espindola, including updating the IT department, hiring a town administrator, and merging the finance director and treasurer positions. "It was all those things and most of them we did."

Mr. Freitas preferred to table the matter for a later meeting, saying he needed more information.

"This is really important for us to do," said Mr. Espindola, and he asked if Mr. Freitas would entertain an alternate motion to authorize Mr. Rees to contact the DLS to get Fairhaven on the schedule because the DLS is scheduling the studies well into October. The motion's caveat would be that if a board member reviewed the materials on the next Friday and still had concerns then he could contact Mr. Rees and the matter would appear on the next meeting's agenda.

"I think that's fair, I'll second that," Mr. Freitas said before offering some additional wiggle room, saying the matter would only be held if the "majority" of the board has concerns after reviewing the materials on Friday. "I think that's fair."

"Look at that," said Mr. Freitas,

"we're all playing nice together."

In Town Meeting news, the board issued its approval for the July 25 Annual Town Meeting to be held remotely via Zoom and approved Town Moderator Mark Sylvia's request to decrease the quorum from 100 to 40. Because of COVID-19, the town could reduce the quorum to as low as 10 (10% of the regular quorum), but Mr. Sylvia said that was not appropriate for Fairhaven.

Resident and BPW member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson joined the conversation remotely from his flip-phone.

"That's how old I am," he said.

He voiced his opposition to the remote town meeting and advocated for an outdoor town meeting on the high school football field.

"Not all the older people have all the special phones and all these passwords. Prior to this [meeting] I

"There were some tremendous recommendations ... that have been an enormous asset to the town," said Mr. Espindola [referring to the DOR report from 2012]

tried to get on the Marine Resources [Committee meeting] ... and I couldn't get through," said Mr. Hobson. "Email ... and all this other stupid stuff... I just don't understand why we can't have a town meeting at the football field ... and sit six feet apart. It's like we're trying to hide everything and the Town of Fairhaven really needs a wakeup call."

Mr. Sylvia reassured Mr. Hobson and the public that the town would provide Town Meeting members with a Chromebook or tablet if access to a device is an issue, and hotspot devices could be lent to those without Internet access. In-person and remote training sessions will also be offered, he said; a training video will be posted to the cable access channel, and a phone hotline for connectivity problems will be opened up until the day before Town Meeting. Furthermore, 10 days before Town Meeting there will be a practice "dry run" of the remote Town Meeting via

Zoom.

Also on the agenda, Selectboard member Keith Silvia resigned from his Selectboard-appointed role on the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) so the board could reappoint Mr. Espindola. Mr. Espindola, however, would only second the motion if he and Mr. Freitas could relinquish one or two of their own liaison positions to Mr. Silvia to more evenly spread out the workload.

Mr. Espindola said he believed taking on the MRC role from Mr. Silvia would make the division of the board's representation on the 18 town boards and committees further "lopsided," as Mr. Espindola would then hold seven positions and Mr. Freitas would hold eight while Mr. Sylvia only held three.

"I hope that you would agree that we should share this a little bit more evenly," Mr. Espindola said.

Mr. Freitas, while open to the idea, was uncomfortable straying from the written agenda that did not mention the appointments other than the MRC. He preferred a motion to accept Mr. Sylvia's resignation and appoint Mr. Espindola.

It also fell to the Selectboard to choose the BPW member to replace Mr. Silvia. According to town bylaws, the Selectboard chooses the replacement.

The board chose Marcus Ferro for his legal expertise and experience over Lou Dutton's public works career history. The vote was 2-1 with Mr. Freitas in favor of Mr. Dutton. Mr. Ferro will serve until the next election in April of 2021. He said he would run for election then.

Filling another vacancy, the Selectboard chose Cathy Melanson over Robert Grindrod for the open seat on the Economic Development Committee.

The board also approved the list of annual reappointments to town boards and committees, with a couple appointments held off until the next meeting.

On the COVID-19 front, Mr. Rees said that there have been 281 cases of the coronavirus in Fairhaven, with only one active case at the time of the meeting. The limited reopening of Town Hall "seems to be going very well," he said, with proper social distancing and face mask usage observed.

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YARD/MOVING SALES

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE Across from 132 Weeden Road, Fhvn. Canoe, moving: extra furniture, old tools, center board sailboat, much more. Sat., 7/25, 8-noon.

TIDE TABLE

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

	July 2020	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	16	0525	1752	1019	2335
Friday	17	0616	1837	1112	----
Saturday	18	0700	1918	0018	1201
Sunday	19	0741	2000	0057	1247
Monday	20	0824	2044	0139	1335
Tuesday	21	0910	2131	0226	1427*
Wednesday	22	0959	2219	0314*	1522*
Thursday	23	1047	2307	0359*	1613*
Friday	24	1138	2359	0442*	1701*
Saturday	25	----	1233	0525*	1753
Sunday	26	0056	1331	0615*	1858
Monday	27	0154	1427	0717*	2019
Tuesday	28	0250	1524	0825	2141
Wednesday	29	0350	1627	0929	2339
Thursday	30	0457	1732	1041	----
Friday	31	0601	1828	0043	1205

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

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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"

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:30pm
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To Access Meeting Remotely:
<https://zoom.us/j/97566438850?pwd=aDM1ZmhXZnFGamd0a2JvbEh1Wkpudz09>

or CALL 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 975 6643 8850

Password: 289604

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 023-151: **1 & 3 Bayside Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Lucy Figueiredo for the construction of a fence and two sheds at the properties located at 1 Bayside Street, Assessors Map 42, Lot 53 and 3 Bayside Street, Assessors Map 42, Lot 52. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
2. CON 023-152: **28 Cherry Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Claudia Warrington for the replacement of a fence at the property located at 28 Cherry Street, Assessors Map 15, Lot 48. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Salt Marsh.
3. CON 023-153: **86-88 Middle Street** Notice of Intent filed by Patrick Carr, A#1 Crane Company, Inc., for

the paving of an existing pervious parking area with concrete at the property located at 86-88 Middle Street, Assessors Map 11, Lots 6D, 6E, & 7. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.

4. CON 023-155: **191 Balsam Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Daniel and Donna Ristuccia for the construction of a lateral addition on sonotubes at the property located at 191 Balsam Street, Assessors Map 43B, Lots 153-155. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.
 5. CON 023-158: **1 Crow Island** Notice of Intent filed by Albert Santos, New Bedford Inc., for the installation of a new E-One sewer grinder pump and forcemain and site grading for the construction of 2 seasonal tents used for venue functions at the property located at 1 Crow Island, Assessors Map 44, Lot 1. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Land Under the Ocean, Land Containing Shellfish, Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways, Coastal Beach, Coastal Dune, and the 100-foot buffer zones to Coastal Beach and Coastal Dune.
 6. CON 023-159: **67 Balsam Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed after-the-fact by Rebecca and James Raymond for a shed and the construction of 20-foot by 22-foot patio at the property located at 67 Balsam Street, Assessors Map 43C, Lots 73 & 75. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.
 7. CON 023-160: **8 Chambers Street** Notice of Intent filed by Christopher Augenti for the installation of a 16-foot by 28-foot garage at the property located at 8 Chambers Street, Assessors Map 41, Lot 58. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.
- Public participation will be via virtual means only: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15,*

2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Fairhaven Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. The public may participate in this meeting via remote participation. 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 electronically at: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/current-filings>

Jay Simmons, Chair
Fairhaven Conservation Commission
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, 7/16/20

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, July 28, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. at the Ford Middle School located at 708 Middle Road, Acushnet. The following hearings will be conducted at this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1 **Case #2020.07.28A** A case of New England Retail Development, LLC c/o Tom Pratt, who is petitioning the Board for a Special Permit to be able to open and operate a gas station and convenience store with drive-thru, within the Village Business District. The proposed location is 158, 166 Main Street, and 17 Wing Road (Assessor's Map 13, Lots 36, 38, and 38A), which are currently owned by Delta Realty, LLC (c/o Mickey Higgins) and Tony's Service Center (c/o Tony Faria). This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.2 (B) and 3.4 (A).

***Plans are available for Public view in the Town Clerk's office during their normal business hours.*
FNN, 7/16/20, 7/23/20

It's important to answer the census

Do you realize how important it is to be counted in the 2020 Census?

According to the Census.gov web site, Census data guide how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year. There is a lot at stake for us locally and regionally.

Your response helps direct funds to local communities for schools, roads and other public services.

Just remember, we only get this chance to make an impact once every ten (10) years! It only takes a few minutes.

Fairhaven currently stands at 70% completion of the Census. While that is not bad, there are other communities in our region who are doing much better. For example, Rochester 79%, Seekonk, 76%, Swansea 76%, Freetown 78%, Acushnet 76% and Lakeville stands at 73%.

One young person in our community recognizes the importance of the Census and has stepped forward to help campaign for us to do more right here in Fairhaven. She is 15-year-old Weslee Tyler, a 10th grader at Fairhaven High School. Her mother, Kari, worked as a Census volunteer in 2010 and has, obviously, instilled in Weslee the importance of the Census.

Later this month, Weslee will begin working with the Town's Public Access TV station to produce a Public Service Announcement about the Census and she will help get the word out on social media. Through the end of October, when the Census period ends, Weslee will track the Town's participation and keep us informed.

From our readers

We can all help Weslee make a positive impact in our community by making sure we have completed the Census and by helping her pass along the word to others about how very important the Census is.

Stay tuned for more from Weslee. In the meantime, to learn more, visit the Town of Fairhaven Town Clerk's web page and these other links:

- <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/town-clerk/news/census-2020>
- <https://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/2020-census-federal-state-funding-medicare/>

*Bob Espindola, Fairhaven
Mr. Espindola is a Fairhaven
Selectboard member*

Keith Silvia and the Election

First, my congratulations both to Keith and his son Danny and his hard working supporters. He accomplished what many said couldn't be done.

From the outset, no disrespect to Charlie Murphy, even Keith said he was an honorable man. The issue is he was a spender.

Keith drew a clear distinction between him and Murphy. He pointed out that under our new Town Administrator spending increased dramatically as opposed to our former town secretary, seemingly without accountability.

A few examples, Mr. Rees spent \$20,000 for a consultant to negotiate a new contract for the police and fire departments, created a new Human Resources position, \$40-60K plus benefit, then tops it off with an additional week vacation with a big increase in salary.

Just consider the proposal to build

a massive new safety complex to the tune of \$50 million. I am not totally against, it, but not for \$50 million.

I heard Mr. Murphy say this town has an excellent bond rating. Sure, the bankers and creditors will loan you the money. Just put it on the taxpayers' dime.

The last two town budgets blew right past the 2 1/2% cap. Mr. Rees assured us the tax revenue from the sale of recreational marijuana would cover it. Never happened.

Many in this town receive social security. We depend on it, myself included. We don't get a 4% increase in benefits. Some years, nothing.

Thank God for Keith and his son Danny and his hard working supporters. The hard pressed seniors and taxpayers in this town will have someone who will keep them in mind and support them.

I would like to finish by saying in the past few months I have gotten to know both Keith and his son Danny quite well.

First of all, they are hard working, honest and charitable men. They are involved in activities like free meals for seniors. His son Danny has volunteered for Big Brothers and Sisters. Danny mentored three boys. Two are doing well, one is a police officer.

I haven't heard anybody speak ill of either Keith or his son Danny. Just about everyone spoke well of them.

I don't know exactly what the next three years will bring. One thing for sure, Keith will govern well with the taxpayers in mind.

John Pond, Fairhaven

Upcoming Meetings

GNBRVTHS District SC

Thurs., 7/16, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 7/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 8/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Town Meeting

Sat., 7/25, Hastings MS, 9 a.m.

ACUSHNET

Board of Appeals

Tue., 7/28, Ford MS, 6:30 p.m.
In person attendance allowed for public hearing, masks required.

Cemetery Board

Mon., 7/20, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thurs., 6/18, Ford MS, 7 p.m.

In person attendance allowed for two public hearings, masks required.

Selectboard

Tues., 7/21, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

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

FAIRHAVEN

Board of Assessors

Thurs., 7/16, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Health

Thurs., 7/16, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 7/20, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 7/27, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday night	Fri., 7/17: Sean	Leetch 7 p.m.
Trivia is back!	Carney 7 p.m.	Sun., 7/19: Ed
7 p.m.	Sat., 7/18: Billy	Macedo 5 p.m.

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