

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm  
Town Hall, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
ROD 2023 OCT 19 AM 10:23

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Richard at 6:30pm, via Zoom  
Present: Chairperson Ann Richard, Bruce Webb, Susan Spooner, Karen Gent, Wendy Drumm, John Pond and Christin Ritz

CHAIR PERSON'S WELCOME AND MEDIA NOTIFICATION  
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT read by Ann Richard

### **Minutes Past Meeting**

Will review the next meeting. Fairhaven TV now has closed captioning so text report should be available.

### **CEA- New info- PR from Committee**

Community electrical aggregation is being renegotiated and one option has changed. The Select Board has asked that the Sustainability Committee get information out to the public about the program and those changes going forward. Laura Gardener will speak more on this at the next meeting. Ann will write a letter to the Select Board . We have the statistics that 14% of Fairhaven have signed up with predatory companies that are paying more than they need to.

### **Future Join Meeting with BPW- New Water Meters, Plantings/Cutting on Town Land/Native**

We have written to DPW about pesticide use and Ann spoke with Bruce about having a joint meeting with DPW to be on a future agenda. Ann would like the committee to think of things to talk to the board. There's new potential water meter plans, electric buses/vehicles, think of talking points. Christin asks about what the new water meters are and Ann explains Laura has reached out about Dartmouth having new water meters that are higher tech that you can view your water use and conservation on the web, maybe this is something Fairhaven can consider. This is just an idea for a future meeting as a conservation measure and does not pertain to some of the new water meters that have recently been installed with some residents.

### **Plastic Free July**

Christin, there's not much to update, there's currently 17 participants and hope more will join and it goes through July 31st.

### **Town Shade Tree Policy**

This topic will be tabled for the next meeting.

### **Kids Fest Discussion/ Participation- Costume Swap- Reuse/Recycle**

This event has been very successful in the past, we're trying to get a jumpstart on it this year to try and collect more costumes. There is a big collection box located at Town Hall. It's currently scheduled for the weekend after the Huttleson MarketPlace closes (October 14th). Hopefully everyone can volunteer with the booth. Christin asks if we ever got the email list of people that want Sustainability Committee updates and we can send out an email about it as well. Ann says we should have a sign up list on the booth. Susan mentions we should also leave a sign out at the seed table.

### **Committee comments/questions**

John asks about the status of some garden areas we had marked out earlier in the year and what that status was on that project and offers to volunteer his time for it. Bruce mentions he discussed it with Vinny and Josh about the proposed areas by the bike path and there were concerns with Eversource right of way and an area where cars park by David Drown Blvd but haven't gone past that. This might be a project we approach again next year and we should revisit.

There is a beach cleanup Saturday July 29th 9am -12pm at Hedge St, a left off of Main St in North Fairhaven.

The Nip Bottle Ban- the City of New Bedford is also considering it and they will be having a public meeting this Monday at the New Bedford Public Library. Susan comments liquor stores have sign up sheets against the ban, what is the likelihood this would have any impact. Ann comments the State still has to approve our ban, there will be a special town meeting in November that the Nip Bottle Ban will be an agenda item and we do expect some opposition. Christin has inquired with some of the stores that have a petition out and it says they're going to ask the Select Board to reconsider the ban. A cashier at one of the stores says the posters were given to the store by one of their liquor distributors.

### **Conservation/Sustainability Coordinator Updates**

Bruce updates that he will meet with Laura regarding the CEA. He was also informed that there will definitely be a counter motion regarding the nip ban so be sure we are prepared for that.

### **General Business**

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Members are welcome to join in person for these meetings going forward. If you haven't been sworn in, members need to physically go into the Town Hall Clerk's Office to do this.

Susan motions to adjourn seconded by John, all in favor by hand raise.