

## FAIRHAVEN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Meeting Minutes October 12, 2023

Held at Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA. 02719

**Contact:** [cod@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:cod@fairhaven-ma.gov)

Present: Town Hall: Pamela Whynot (vice-chair), Eleanor Chew(secretary), Cara Viveiros and Annemarie Chagnon Keith Silvia (Select Board Representative)

ZOOM: Glenn Gabbard (Treasurer), Donna Maino Lavalley and Martha Reed(Staff Liaison)

Absent: Marcus Ferro (Chair) and Ronnie Medina

Guests: Fairhaven Cable TV and Maddy Correia

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Pamela Whynot, vice-chair, read the meeting call to order and the state guidelines and called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Cara made a motion to accept the minutes and Annemarie seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 yes and 1 abstention.

**III. MEMBERSHIP:** Pam welcomed Cara to the commission as a member. Cara said she was happy to be on the commission, Pam reminded us that there is still one open position on the commission asking that anyone interested reach out to us

### IV. TOWN ACCESSIBILITY:

**A. Parking at the High School:** Annemarie said she sent the email to the SRO and that he took care of the issue. No one is parking in the HP spaces without HP information.

**B. Town Beach Accessibility:** Eleanor said we need a list that shows the issues at the beach to work on this. Keith offered to set up a meeting with the BPW once the list was completed. Annemarie responded asking if we could make a list now and if it needed to be more specific. Pam asked Glenn what his concerns were with Glenn asking if we had a complete list. Glenn offered to compile a list for the next meeting. Pam asked if we should wait to see if the money comes in from the grant, explaining that we wanted to make the beach accessible for everyone even if someone has a stroller. Annemarie agreed that it made sense to wait to see about the grant as we would hear by December. Glenn agreed as the beach is not being used now and having the benefit of someone with expertise. Donna suggested that with people listening maybe we could have them share ideas with us about the accessibility needs. Can they weigh in? Pam asked Cara what she thought with Cara responding that she was all set. Pam asked if we were going to wait to see about the grant before going forward and work on this in December if we don't receive the grant. Eleanor asked if we can add this to the agenda permanently. We talked about having people comment and Eleanor saying the email was not working and it seems to be unreliable and that we should not depend on this. Martha assured us that the email is working now. Glenn asked how we tell the public to come or to submit comments. Keith suggested that we put it in the Senior Center's newsletter with Martha agreeing to do that. She said if it was on Face Book she would copy it to their newsletter. She said that it could also be put on cable tv.

**C. Cushman Park Letter:** Pam said this was requested by Marcus as he wanted to ask the board to send a letter to the BPW to pave the unpaved paths at the park. Eleanor made a motion to send the letter with the secretary writing it. Annemarie seconded it. Pam explained this was coming from CPC funds. Martha said that anything done by Vinnie and the BPW will be done to code. Annemarie said it is hard to go from one side of the park to the other and it does not allow for functional snow removal. She said she could see it making sense when she uses the park. After discussion the motion passed with 6 yes and 1 no vote.

**D. Public Safety:** Pam spoke about the Blue Envelope Program, thanking Lt. Kobza for this noting other towns are following his lead in this.

**V. TREASURER'S REPORT/BUDGET:** Glenn reminded us that we had \$1,000.00 in our budget and with the last purchases we will have \$950.00 left without the expenses for the Kid's Fest.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Meetings With Department Heads:** Glenn and Eleanor said they were still setting up meetings.

**B. Social Media:** Pam again recognized Glenn for his work on the Face Book page saying Annemarie had sent him information as well.

**C. E Mail:** This is working so we can take it off of the agenda

**D. By-Laws:** Eleanor said that she and Donna would be working on this and said she met with the Town Administrator to get information about how to do this and the steps needed.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Kid's Fest:** Eleanor provided an update of the event saying they bought 80 plus crafts and we ran out.

**B. In Person Accessibility Of Town Meetings:** Annemarie shared that the tablet has helped her at meetings. She asked that we speak slowly and clearly at meetings as this helps her to understand. Pam asked if there was a tablet available for someone coming into a meeting as well, saying we need to post this. Eleanor asked if the tablet was for board members or the community as well. Fairhaven Cable said it was available for anyone that needed it and that they could connect someone's personal device in to the program as well.

**C. Proclamation:** Glenn said we approved this in September and it will be on the Select Board's next meeting agenda. Pam asked Keith when they met with Keith responding every two weeks now they are back on schedule.

**D. Grant Program:** Pam said Angie had submitted this and we are waiting for a decision on the application.

**IX. New Meeting Date:** Eleanor moved that we meet Thursday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. at town hall with Annemarie seconding it. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Closing Comments/Adjournment:** Annemarie made a motion that we adjourn at 6:56 p.m. with Glenn seconding it. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew  
Secretary