

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
October 7, 2019**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Cameron Durant, Commissioner
Keith Silvia, Commissioner
Frank Coelho, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Administrative Assistant
Jeff Furtado, Water Superintendent
Joseph Ingoldsby
Sandra Balthazar, 21 Silvershell Beach Road
Kenneth Balthazar, 21 Silvershell Beach Road



I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. September 16, 2019 – Executive Session

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of September 16, 2019 – Executive Session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote 4-0-1 with Mr. Durant abstained.

B. September 30, 2019

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes of September 30, 2019. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote 4-0-1 with Mr. Durant abstained.

IV. Appointments

A. Joseph Ingoldsby, Cooke Park Memorial Basin Garden

Mr. Ingoldsby - Last year we received a Cultural Counsel Grant to do some maintenance at Cooke Park. This year we would like to apply for the grant again. One of the cherry trees were damaged during the maintenance of the park by a lawn mower and weed wacker. A neighbor wrapped the tree with duct tape and electrical tape to try to hold the bark on the tree but I had to remove the tape from the tree because it was strangling it. This year we would also like to make some repairs to the basin, which will need some screened loam, and we would like to plant some bulbs for the spring. I think that there is a

Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
October 7, 2019

real neighborhood concern for the park to be maintained and beautified. We are going to need your help and blessing either financially or with services.

Mr. Lavalette - The basin was put in by the BPW. They received a grant to help with the drainage issue and clear the water that puddles up in the roadway. It is gravel mix with a screen and it is to help with the water because if you do not get the water out of there, it will end up looking like a swimming pool. I have been trying to do something like this for the past few years.

Mr. Ingoldsby - I did see the gravel and river pebbles that were there and recognized that it is a drainage basin. The plants that I have chosen to plant there will do fine because they can take the wet soil.

Mr. Lavalette – I think that this is a great idea if he can get it to a point that does not impede with the water drainage. I am on the Town's Historical Commission and we take care of the monuments at Cooke Park. I have been trying to finish this up for a few years and it has been tough to get things done there.

Mr. Wotton - The plantings that you are looking to put there would be only on the perimeter of the basin? Does the water build up that high when it rains?

Mr. Lavalette – No, the water does not go up that far and if it does, it does not last for long.

Mr. Wotton - What exactly are you looking for besides permission?

Mr. Furtado - Last year I wrote a letter of support for Mr. Ingoldsby to help him get the grant. If he needs further help from the BPW, we certainly can help him with that as well.

Mr. Coelho – Have we determined if this is a park or cemetery yet.

Mr. Wotton - It currently stands as a park with the moratorium that it could be a cemetery.

Mr. Coelho - You said no activities could be held there until we found out exactly what is going on.

Mr. Furtado - There have been no activities held there. All we do there is cut the grass and maintain the grounds. There can be no festivals held there.

Mr. Durant - As long as you are not digging six feet down into the ground I do not see an issue with this. I think it is appropriate for the neighbors and the neighborhood. I think that maintaining the Japanese theme is still appropriate moving forward.

Mr. Lavalette - That whole area was excavated and we know that there is nothing in the area. This is the last piece of the puzzle that I have been trying to do for a long time and it will enhance the park.

Mr. Wotton – If you are only digging around the basin that we have already dug up and going down about a foot deep than you will not disturb anything that may be there. I am also looking to donate some of the river pebbles that you are looking for.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
October 7, 2019**

Mr. Hobson - I think that this Board is willing to work with you and anything that you might need. Mr. Silvia motioned to approve the application and support letter for the Cultural Counsel Grant and to allow Mr. Ingoldsby to plant plantings around the basin at Cooke Park. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote unanimous.

B. Sandra Balthazar, 21 Silver Shell Beach Drive – Drainage Issue

Ms. Balthazar - We are here because we have an application in with the Conservation Commission. We have a water issue in front of our house at 21 Silver Shell Beach Drive. Mr. Lavalette came to our house and he felt that there is something else going on to create the issue. He saw a catch basin that has been raised up from the frost, which could be causing the issue, or both the skirt to our driveway and the driveway are low and that causes the water to come right in. We are trying to find out if the BPW can repair that drain and we would fix the skirt unless that is something that you would make repairs to.

Mr. Wotton - What is the plan that you have in front of the Conservation Commission?

Mr. Furtado - I went by the property and the concrete is certainly heaved around it. We could definitely lower it for them. The issue is that the driveways there are lower than the road.

Mr. Lavalette – The catch basin is down about fifty feet from their property and their driveway does not have a lot of curbing. Their house is a pond when it rains, they probably get anywhere from five to seven inches of water. They are in a flood zone and they have to file a notice of intent because they just want to fill it in and hopefully the issue will go away. I have told the Conservation Commission that this time we should take baby steps. Rather than just filling up their front yard. Could you also put a higher curbing there? They are afraid if they still get all the water that it will go under the house and undermine it.

Mr. Hobson - I noticed that problem there and if the Town could do something with the driveway where the water is going in they could raise it an inch or two and have the water keep going down the street to the catch basin.

Mr. Coelho – I know when they did the streets on West Island I had an issue after they put the road in. The BPW came down, redid the driveway apron and raised it to redirect the water.

Mr. Lavalette – Because Conservation has jurisdiction in a flood zone, adding soil to the front of the house might not be the best solution. When these situations come up now that I am on the Conservation Committee, I like to go down and see what the people are trying to accomplish and then try to make a small recommendation.

Mr. Furtado - We can lower the catch basin and I will be in contact with the Conservation Agent to see what we can do.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
October 7, 2019**

Mr. Hobson motioned to support Conservations decision of what we can do on our end. Mr. Durant seconded. Vote unanimous.

V. Items for Action

A. Sign Contract Agreement, GCG Associates, Overlook Acres (440 – 450 Sconticut Neck Road) \$8,800.00

Mr. Durant motioned to sign the contract agreement with GCG Associates for Overlook Acres, 440-450 Sconticut Neck Road in the amount of \$8,800.00. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

A. Allan Rego, 27 Hawthorne Street – Water & Sewer Abatement

Mr. Silvia motioned to bring 27 Hawthorne Street, Water & Sewer Abatement back to the table for discussion. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote 3-2 with Mr. Hobson and Mr. Coelho opposed.

Mr. Hobson motioned to table the discussion of 27 Hawthorne Street, Water & Sewer Abatement until the next meeting. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote 2-3 with Mr. Wotton, Mr. Durant and Mr. Silvia opposed. Motion does not pass.

Mr. Wotton - At the last meeting that this resident was at we requested the average from the last three bills at this time of year.

Mr. Silvia - I would like to hear what the Water Superintend has to say.

Mr. J Furtado - My suggestion like I said two meetings ago. Even though we are getting ready to set another abatement policy this is going to open up a can of worms. You let people come before you with no justification as to where the water went. You are going to get more people coming before you especially after the last abatement that you gave.

Mr. Hobson - Suppose I have high usage. Does you or someone go out to the property to check for leaks?

Mr. J Furtado - Once we are notified that there is a substantial leak at a property we do take more than one read. We get a second read to double-check the first read to make sure that there is no mistake.

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the abatement for the sewer charges at 27 Hawthorne Street in the amount of \$364.00. Mr. Coelho seconded. Vote 3-1-1 with Mr. Durant abstained and Mr. Silvia opposed.

B. 2020 Contractor Fees

Mr. Coelho - I think that if we raised the driveway permits to \$30 and the yearly contractor fees to \$50 we would not be out of the ballpark.

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
October 7, 2019**

Mr. Hobson - I am ok with whatever the Board wants to raise the fees too.

Mr. Silvia – I think that we should raise the permits to \$30 and the contractor fees to \$150.

Mr. Wotton - My recommendation is to keep one of the fees the same and to go up on the other ones. You are going to get more permits than contractors. As I said last meeting, I pay this fee so I am going to abstain from this.

Mr. Silvia motioned to keep the driveway permit fee \$10 and raise the yearly contractor fee to \$170. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote 4-0-1 with Mr. Wotton abstained.

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum

VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for September 30, 2019

- Attended to brush cutting requests
- Water Dept. finishing up meter reading
- Work on MS4 stormwater annual report
- Attended Sewer Department meeting re: upgrade/budget for both treatment facilities
- Meet with John C, TA and Town Counsel re :Cooke St drainage situation
- Attend construction meeting for Jerusalem Rd property
- Attend construction meeting for Bridge St gas station project
- Negotiation team met with Sewer Union - came to agreement - brought to membership - agreed upon
- Meet with Town Counsel about putting various entities on notice
- Attended BBAC meeting as Town's rep

**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
October 7, 2019**

- Attend broadband meeting with Town's consultant
- Attend Hacker St parking meeting - we will host a neighborhood forum on October 3 at 6:30
- Attend side table meeting with Highway Union - meeting continued to a later date

B. Board Members

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Coelho – At the last meeting we had we are still talking about the rocks and cutting the brush at Hoppy's Landing. We have an email in to Mr. Rees and the Selectmen trying to figure out how and when the rocks were put there temporarily. On October 16th we will be going in front of the Selectmen to get permission to remove the rocks and or cut the brush.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Durant motioned to set the date for the next meeting on October 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn & Executive Session

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting and enter into executive session and not to reconvene in open session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss the water and sewer abatement policy.

In Favor: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Coelho, Mr. Durant and Mr. Silvia.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Vento
Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved on October 21, 2019.