

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Town Hall, 40 Center Street

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
JAN 20 2023 9:18 AM

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ann Richard at 6:30pm, via Zoom

Present: Chairperson Ann Richard, Karen Gent, Laura Gardner, Wendy Drumm, Tim Garcia, Kelly Camara and John Pond

Members of Public: Mona Philips, Glenn & Betsy

CHAIR PERSON'S WELCOME AND MEDIA NOTIFICATION

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT read by Ann Richard

MINUTES

Minutes from the last meeting will be reviewed next meeting.

SURVEY RESULTS

Christin Ritz provided Ann a review of results as she could not attend. She received 14 surveys back from restaurants and only 1 from a retailer. Reached out multiple times and were hoping to have more participation and feedback. Should we have a special meeting with the advisory board or with the whole committee? What would we like to include in our by-laws? Ann will reach out to the advisory board with single use plastics. Deadline for articles is March 1. The town meeting date is May 6th. John Pond comments he forwarded a copy of the survey to Cumberland Farms and asked why they can't use paper cups. He'd like to encourage Stop & Shop to stop using plastic bags or charge for them.

PLANT WORKSHOP

A plant workshop will be held at Millicent Library on Feb. 22- 2pm with Crystal Brinson- Horticulture- Star Studios then possibly another in the spring along with Kill Your Lawn. It's during school vacation week and everyone will leave with a free plant cutting.

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

Kelly and Ann worked on that and got into the Town Administrator which highlights what the Committee has done throughout the year. Wendy comments that it was well written and thanks Ann.

CURBSIDE COMPOSTING

Will be on a future meeting with the Board of Public Works, its call Black Earth Composting and it will be on future agenda. It is a curbside composting company.

TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

This will be worked on before the next meeting.

FIRST BEACH CLEANUP OF THE YEAR

Laura announces the first cleanup will be Sunday the 22nd at 1pm at the end of Hedge St, everyone is welcome. If there's bad weather it will be the following Sunday the 29th.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Laura wrote a letter to neighborhood news about the aggregation program, Eversource rates went up a lot but if you were in the aggregation your rates did not. Our savings are significant and completely free to opt-in. We are the only community in the SouthCoast to opt up to a 10% renewable energy default. The website is: Masscea.com/fairhaven

Besty, a community member, is pleased to hear about the composting.

Wendy will be submitting an article to the Neighborhood News about electric buses, she asks Laura to resend background info on the topic to her. She will also talk to Bob Espindola prior to writing the article.

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR UPDATE- KELLY CAMARA

The community garden shed- Ann met with a few members of the community garden group regarding the new shed. Ann is reaching out to businesses for donations. (Susan Spooner joins meeting remotely)

Wendy, Susan, Christin and Kelly should meet to discuss next steps with the survey and articles on plastic reduction and then meet with the Board of Health. Deadline for Town Meeting Articles is March 1st.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Next meeting is in February . Motion to adjourn by Christin, seconded by Tim. All in favor via hand raise.