

**Town of Fairhaven  
Board of Public Works Meeting  
April 22, 2014**

Present

G. Steven Riley, Commissioner  
Robert Hobson, Commissioner  
Kathleen Sturtevant, Commissioner  
Michael Ristuccia, Commissioner  
Brian Wotton, Commissioner  
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent  
Kathy Tripp, Administrative Assistant  
Lee Bachand, 8 Jeannette Street  
Alfred Raphael, NFIA  
Michael Silvia, NFIA  
Ted Silva, NFIA  
Antone Medeiros, Tree Warden



**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Riley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Reorganize**

**A. Chairman**

Mr. Riley – I'd like to turn it over to Mr. Furtado. I appreciate the last two years as Chairman. Somebody else should take over.

Mr. Furtado – Entertain a motion for Chairman.

Ms. Sturtevant motioned to have Mr Ristuccia serve as Chairman. Mr. Hobson seconded. Nominations closed. Vote unanimous.

**B. Vice-Chairman**

Mr. Ristuccia – Motion for Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Riley motioned to have Mr. Hobson serve as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Sturtevant seconded. Vote unanimous.

**C. Clerk**

Mr. Ristuccia – Motion for Clerk.

Mr. Riley motioned to have Ms. Sturtevant serve as Clerk. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

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**III. Routine Matters**

**A. Signing of Departmental Bills**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

**A. April 7, 2014**

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2014 meeting. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**V. Appointments**

**A. Lee Bachand, 8 Jeannette Street – Re: Catch Basin**

Ms. Bachand – I am requesting that the Highway Department install a catch basin between 4 and 6 Jeannette Street. Every time it rains it overflows into the road. It's also an ice hazard in the winter.

Mr. Furtado – In preparation for this item on the agenda I spoke with the Highway Superintendent. We could install it after July 1st. It will alleviate some of the drainage issues that you have. Now, there is a 12" RCP that leaves Jeannette Street and goes across Route 6. It will alleviate some of it. What would be required just like the other town residents you would have to hire someone to pipe from the pond to the new catch basin.

Mr. Hobson – Do you have permission?

Ms. Bachand – I own half of the pond.

Mr. Wotton – No questions. We looked at this six or seven months ago. I'm good with it.

Mr. Riley – One catch basin will service the street?

Ms. Tripp – There are several catch basins there already.

Ms. Sturtevant – I'm familiar with it.

Mr. Hobson – Same problem as the people in Hamlet Homes have.

Mr. Ristuccia – I feel the same way.

Mr. Wotton motioned to install a catch basin on Jeannette Street. Mr. Riley seconded. Vote unanimous.

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**B. Alfred Raphael, Michael Silvia, Ted Silva – NFIA, Antone Medeiros, Tree Warden  
Re: Benoit Square**

Ms. Sturtevant reclused herself from the meeting because she is a member of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association.

Mr. Raphael – We've been working in Benoit square for a few years. We did the gazebo. Right now we are trying to get some landscaping done. Mr. John Costa sells plants in East Fairhaven drew this design for us. He prepared this for us as a donation. Mike Silvia, President and the Tree Warden are here. What we plan on doing is plant shrubbery behind the cannon, perennials and boxwood plants. We can't exceed 18" because of the view of automobiles. Light on flags. Six spots that sometime in the future street lamps. Put conduit in now. Sidewalk handicap access is on Adams Street. G. Bourne Knowles will help us prepare. The trees there now are rotted. Sidewalks are concrete, acid wash like fort phoenix with the small pebbles. All around the gazebo will be miniature boxwoods.

Mr. Wotton – I'm glad those trees are coming down.

Mr. Raphael – They will come in on Friday and trim the two oaks near Howland Road.

Mr. Riley – Do you have a schedule for underground?

Mr. Raphael – We wanted to get thru this meeting first. Looking for donations. Donate a plant. Has to be from our planting scheme.

Mr. Riley – I know somebody that will donate the electrical conduit. Any assistance the BPW can help with.

Mr. Raphael – We would like a few loads of loam.

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the project for the NFIA at Benoit Square. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VI. Items for Action**

**A. Fairhaven Improvement Association – Request for Services June 28, 2014**

Mr. Ristuccia – The Fairhaven Improvement Association is requesting our services.

Mr. Furtado – We usually sweep the streets, tree trimming and barrels. In the past it has been curtailed because of money. We used to go out there first thing in the morning.

Mr. Riley – Schedule we had last year worked out well.

Mr. Ristuccia – I recall talking about that last year.

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Mr. Wotton – I'm good.

Mr. Riley – I'm all set. Keep the same schedule.

Mr. Hobson – It's a good thing for the Town.

Mr. Furtado – Two schools of thought; good for the Town I agree. My other school of thought is that we give away services. Bottom line is we have to pay for it and we are not recouping that money. At a revenue standpoint, perhaps in the future ask for a portion of that money back.

Mr. Riley – Four or five years ago when it was \$1,500 we reduced the overtime a little bit. We asked for a line item in budget and that was shot down by Fin Comm and Selectmen.

Mr. Wotton motioned to approve overtime help for the Fairhaven Improvement Association. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**B. Mill Road Dam Proposal – Grant**

Mr. Furtado – I wanted to have Kathy put this on the agenda as preliminary. Three or four weeks ago when it rained significantly, we had a breach in the dam at Mill Road. Some fish that used to migrate to that area basically are not allowed to go any further. After the rain with the breach in the dam only the strong could make it over the rocks. Division of Marine Fisheries said in the interim to remove the rocks. The big picture is once upon a time it used to hold back the water, two-fold hold downstream and it used to be the water supply. I sought a couple of grants to hire an engineering firm that would basically access the condition and see what would be done. The issue is in order for them to do that they want but they want their money up front. I received a couple of quotes. In addition to that we talked to the folks from the States Ecological Restoration Fish and Game and they are the folks who oversee dam repairs and more often removal. I sent them an email and they responded to me what's available July 1<sup>st</sup>. We are going to have to take care of that problem.

Mr. Wotton – It's just as dangerous with no water in it.

Mr. Riley – Is it better to remove?

Mr. Furtado – They believe it's better to remove.

Mr. Riley – Get it ready for a Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Mr. Furtado – We eventually have to do something.

**C. Synagro Northeast – Sludge Management contract – Amendment #1**

Mr. Furtado – These are the folks who take away the poop from the Treatment Plant. Consumer price index \$320 per dry ton. The less water we send it to them the better we are. \$245 per load for hauling.

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They take 9000 gallons at a time. Because of the digester we have reduced it by \$60,000 this year. We need to sign on by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Wotton motioned to continue a one year agreement with Synagro based on same contract as last year. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote unanimous.

**D. Elliot Lane Chapter 90 Funds – Request Additional \$5,000 for Construction**

Mr. Furtado – When it rains the corner of Elliot Lane and Route 6 there is minimum pooling that is there. Repair to some of the wheelchair ramps so we can get better drainage and some curbing is an extra \$5,000. We may not expend it all.

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve \$5,000 in additional funding for Elliot Lane. Ms. Sturtevant seconded. Vote unanimous.

**VII. Board Members, Superintendent – Old Business / New Business**

Superintendent's Report for April 22, 2014:

From last meeting:

- School Street/Ash Street drain – The outfall pipe was blocked with brush and trash, it has been cleaned
- Hamlet Street drain – The existing pipes are undersized clay pipe. It would cost about \$8,000 to replace the piping to be able to handle the flow – perhaps Chapter 90 project in the future
- Briercliffe erosion –pending receiving permission from Con Com, we will install an asphalt berm to redirect water to the catch basin to the north
- Loam and seeding began on Thursday 4/10/14

New items:

- Attend Economic Meeting
- Attend Mattapoisett River Valley meeting
- 2 Water Department Employee Personnel issues – will discuss in Executive Session
- Con Com Site visit on April 12 of Lauren Francis' property where we will due drainage repair
- Meet with Charlie Tripp re: beach erosion on Briercliffe

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- Work on Mattapoisett Inter-municipal Agreement – in preparation for Town meeting – finalize language
- Fort Phoenix clean-up Board request will be forthcoming to move some items around
- Issue with water pipe on Causeway Bridge – meet engineer on site to assess – more to follow
- Mill Road dam breach – meet with Marine Fisheries on site – work on obtaining grant for repair/removal
- Receive \$77,000 from State for pothole repairs from winter
- Walk-through with EPA at Sewer Plant with permit writer concerning proposed nitrogen limit
- Meet with FST re: I and I contract and sewer pipe assessment
- Work on water conservation brochure to comply with DEP educational requirements
- Attend Climate Change Workshop – specifically how various sized storms will affect various structures in Fairhaven

Mr. Furtado – In the report you saw the report from Mass DOT about the bridge on Goulart Memorial Drive. Tata and Howard gave us some suggestions. We are eventually are going to have to address this.

In preparation for Town Meeting we are working on the final language with the Town of Mattapoisett.

We've been dealing with the solid waste contract, insurance and Tom Crotty.

Mr. Hobson – I see them working on Jerusalem Road with mosquito control. Improve the drainage?

Mr. Furtado – Steve Burns has that on his list. Clear a path.

Mr. Hobson – Is there a road going there?

Mr. Furtado – No.

Mr. Hobson – The Government Study Committee; the BPW was voted in by a Town election. The Government Study Committee changes the rules and regulations of the BPW and they don't want to have a Town vote on it.

Mr. Furtado – If you read the article as part of the proposals presented at Town meeting a yes vote it would go to the Town as a vote.

Mr. Riley – My understanding it would be a Town wide vote. The Government Study Committee is meeting Thursday at 6:00 for public comments.

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Mr. Ristuccia – It seems as though I think it would be wise to go that meeting on Thursday and ask those specific questions.

Mr. Hobson - Do something and get permission to use Town Counsel.

Mr. Furtado – They are using Town Counsel.

Ms. Sturtevant – Weybridge, when are they going to start?

Mr. Furtado – At the economic meeting I went to a couple of weeks ago I was told the Planning Department needs to be involved. I sent an email to Bill Roth. I will follow up with them. We were going to make it 16’ wide with gravel. Not doing this in secrecy. If you read the regulations the Planning Board needs to be involved or we would already be moving further.

Ms. Sturtevant – I had quite a few people approach me about people who have not yet tied into the sewer system and they thought it was our jurisdiction. I did speak with Charlene. It is enforce by Pat Fowle?

Ms. Tripp – Yes.

Ms. Sturtevant – Some have waivers because they have a new system or a hardship.

Mr. Ristuccia – They had two years to tie in and they failed to do it.

Mr. Riley – Empty lots, hardships. That’s up to them.

Heading into end of April wondering when will we post for summer help?

Ms. Tripp – We will hire the end of May to start in June.

Mr. Wotton – Driving around in Precinct 3 the roads could cause damage to the smaller vehicles. The dirt roads need to be regraded. Excess fill with potholes. Misty Bay was horrendous. They need a lot of attention as well as Nakata and some of the side streets as well.

Mr. Furtado – We received \$77,000 from Mass Highway for pothole repair. We can deficit spend. We have begun the grading operation.

Mr. Riley – Send my thanks from one resident on Sconticut Neck Road. Great job on the wall that got hit by a plow. It took out a big section. Tell Mr. Charbonneau the resident was pleased.

Mr. Ristuccia – One thing, a person has contacted me on a few occasions. The road that goes to Bella Vista. Is that one that we care for?

Mr. Furtado – Up to the turnaround.

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Last Wednesday the permit writer who will write the permit for EPA and we had our engineering folks here. The premise is he is going to be the one who stamps the permit for the nitrogen. In 1972 nitrogen was not a concern. No matter what, it is going to cost us some dough. We can do some in house modifications.

Mr. Ristuccia – In addition to what Vinnie is saying about the meeting, the gentleman from the State that is charge with giving us the number. He is in aeronautical science. I don't know if that is a good thing or a bad thing. We voted to spend a few thousands of dollars a few months ago. CDM money was well spent. The man that represented us knew his stuff. The gentleman from the State was asking him questions. Our digester actually hinders our nitrogen number.

**VIII. Set Date for the Next Meeting**

Mr. Hobson motioned to hold the next two meetings on May 3, 2014 at 8:30 at the Middle School and May 5, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Sturtevant seconded. Vote unanimous.

**IX. Adjourn**

Mr. Ristuccia motioned to enter into executive session at 7:13 p.m. and not to reconvene the open session to discuss personnel issues.

Roll call taken: Mr. Ristuccia, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Sturtevant, Mr. Riley and Mr. Wotton in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Tripp  
Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved on May 5, 2014.