

**Town of Fairhaven
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
January 5, 2021**

Present: Wayne Oliveira, Vicki Oliveira David Braga, John Medeiros, Mike Kelly, Gary A 10-44
Lavalette, Selectman Keith Silvia

Absent: MJ Carvalho

Present via Zoom: Natalie Mello joined the meeting at 6:42 pm

Chairman Oliveira called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm in the Banquet Room at Town Hall and via Zoom. All members observed Social Distancing rules.

Minutes

Mr. Lavalette made a motion to approve the minutes of December 1, 2021. Mr. Braga seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Oliveira asked to take the agenda out of order to accommodate the owners of 27 Fort street, so as to not make them wait until the end of the meeting.

Natalie Mello joined the meeting at 6:42 pm via zoom.

Demo Delay- 27 Fort Street

Selectman Silvia made a motion to re-open the public hearing for 27 Fort Street. Mr. Lavalette seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Mello joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:42 pm

Chairman Oliveira said Town Counsel has provided some guidance on the demo delay bylaw. Town Counsel has stated, per the bylaw, that if the Commission decides to allow demolition then the role of the Commission is finished. Mr. Oliveira reached out to the architect and expressed the concerns of the commission regarding the design of the new building and trying to keep it in line with the neighborhood's style. The owner of the property, Mr. Leung, stated he and his family want to stay in the neighborhood and keep the new house with the same styles as the other homes. Members offered their thoughts on the demolition of the home and felt there is no longer any historical value left to the home.

At 6:43 pm Mr. Lavalette made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Medeiros seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Roll Call vote: Mr. Oliveira in favor, Mr. Lavalette in favor, Mr. Medeiros in favor, David Braga in favor, Mr. Silvia in favor, Ms. Oliveira in favor, Ms. Mello in favor.

Ms. Oliveira made a motion to issue a demolition permit for 27 Fort Street. Mr. Medeiros seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Roll Call vote: Mr. Oliveira in favor, Mr. Lavalette in favor, Mr. Medeiros in favor, David Braga in favor, Mr. Silvia in favor, Ms. Oliveira in favor, Ms. Mello in favor.

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Financial Report

Chairman Oliveira reviewed the financial report with the commission. Chairman Oliveira met recently with the Town Budget team to discuss the FY23 budget and has requested a slight increase in funds to cover expenses for the next fiscal year.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Oliveira has spoken to Rex Monument who can install the bridge plaque at the entrance of the New Bedford/Fairhaven Bridge. The cost is between \$1200 - \$1500. Mr. Oliveira will put in a request with the Select Board to use the funds from the route 6 median gift account.

Committee Liaison Reports

Mr. Lavalette said the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) had concerns regarding the sign over the Fire Museum. Mr. Lavalette has contacted Signature Signs who can rebuild the wooden sign and not use vinyl lettering but cut the letters into the wood. Mr. Lavalette has also painted the hinges on the shutters black. Mr. Lavalette said CPC has approved the project.

Correspondence

Mr. Oliveira reached out to the Whaling Museum regarding the Nimrod Cannon. The Whaling Museum wants to retain ownership of the cannon and does not want to permanently give the cannon to the Town. The Whaling Museum has concerns the cannon is not properly being maintained at this time, but correspondence to Mr. Dawicki has been unsuccessful. Mr. Oliveira is in contact with town counsel for some guidance.

Commission Bills

Commission members signed this month's bills.

Academy

Mr. Oliveira said he is still working with the architect and contractor to finalize the punch list. Town Counsel has met with the Architect to try to resolve this issue.

Fire Museum

Mr. Oliveira reported that the Tree Warden has trimmed the tree that was overhanging the roof at the Washington Street firehouse.

Fort Phoenix

Ms. Mello expressed her concern that the secondary gate near the bathhouses on the State side of the Fort has been removed and the first gate is still not getting locked at night. Mr. Oliveira will try again to contact the State for more information. Ms. Mello will reach out to the Fairhaven Police Department to find out why they are not locking the gates at night.

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Old Stone School House

Mr. Oliveira said the contractor is still waiting to see if the prices of material come down before starting the renovations.

Street Lamps

Mr. Oliveira and Mr. Isaksen have been researching lamp styles and would like to discuss further at our February meeting.

House Plaque

No house plaques at this time

New Business

No new business to discuss.

At 7:28 Mr. Medieros made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lavalette seconded. Vote was unanimous. Ms. Mello lost internet connection.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Oliveira
Recording Secretary
(Approved 02/02/2022)

