

Town of Fairhaven
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

February 2, 2022

Present: Wayne Oliveira, Gary Lavalette, Mike Kelly, David Braga, John Medeiros,
Vicki Oliveira, Selectman Keith Silvia
Absent: MJ Carvalho, Gail Isaksen
Present via Zoom: Natalie Mello

Chairman Oliveira called the meeting to order at 6:37 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 January 5, 2022. Mr. Medeiros seconded. Vote was unanimous.

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

Financial Report

Chairman Oliveira reviewed the financial report with the commission.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Oliveira met with the Select Board and was granted permission to use some of the funds in the Route 6 median gift account for the reinstallation of the bridge plaque. Mr. Oliveira will get all the necessary paperwork from the State and have Rex monument install the plaque.

Committee Liaison Reports

Mr. Lavalette said the Community Preservation Committee discussed the carriage house at the Manjiro House on Cherry Street. The Manjiro Friendship Society is requesting funds for the inside of the cultural center and Mr. Lavalette asked the commission what their thoughts were on the request. Members all feel this would be beneficial for the money to be spent on the cultural center as this is important to the town.

Correspondence

No correspondence at this time

Commission Bills

Commission members signed this month's bills.

Academy

Mr. Oliveira reported on the progress at the Academy and said the ramp is in place but the door was put in incorrectly. Kneeland Construction has agreed to fix the door after Town Counsel reached out to their attorney and an agreement was reached. The Commission will hold back funds until the door is properly fixed.

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Fire Museum

Nothing to report at this time. The CPC money will take care of repairs at the Spring Street Firehouse.

Fort Phoenix

Mr. Lavalette will contact the State regarding the gate on the State side. Ms. Mello spoke with Ms. Adesso at the Police Station and was told the Fairhaven Police Department deals with the Army Corp of Engineers for the gate at the Fort. The Fairhaven Patrolmen are scheduled to close the parking lot gate at night but sometimes they get busy and cannot go by to lock it.

Old Stone School House

Mr. Oliveira said the students at New Bedford Voc-Tech will be fabricating a new fence at the Old Stone School House on North Street. Cottrill Brothers is still scheduled to replace the gutters but there are still no masons available to do any of the stone work.

Street Lamps

Mr. Oliveira showed 2 styles of street lamps that he and Nils Isaksen have thought would look nice around Town Hall and the center. Because of COVID, the prices are very high for materials but Mr. Oliveira is also researching some grant opportunities. Mr. Oliveira is hoping the vocational students can start in the spring by putting in the foundations for the lamps.

House Plaque

No house plaques at this time

Demo Delay

Mr. Oliveira said 27 Fort Street is still in the design phase.

New Business

Mr. Oliveira said one of the Goals and Objectives for the Select Board in FY23 is to replace the large map (sign) on the southwest corner of the Town Hall lawn. Mr. Lavallette said he will do some research on this project. Another of the Goals/Objectives is to place a marker at the spot where Herman Melville left from.

Mr. Medeiros reported on the progress of the Oxford School Bell, stating that the Voc-Tech students are currently creating a mock-up of the housing for the bell and it will be brought to Town Hall to see how it will. The Bell Committee will get the opinion of the public before the permanent one is created and installed. Some members have concerns over the size of the housing and it being too large on the lawn of Town Hall. Selectman Silvia will keep the Commission informed during the process when this comes before the Select Board.

At 7:34 Mr. Lavallette made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Oliveira
Recording Secretary
(Approved 03/2/2022)