

Town of Fairhaven

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

April 13, 2022

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2022 MAY -5 A 8:38

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Present: Mike Kelly, David Braga, Vicki Oliveira, Wayne Oliveira, Gary Lavalette, Keith Silva, MJ Carvalho

Absent: Natalie Mello, John Medeiros and Gail Isaksen

Also Present: Doug Brady

Chairman Oliveria called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm

Minutes

Mr. Silva made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2022. Ms. Carvalho second. Vote passed.

Financial Report

Chairman Oliveira read the financial report.

Signing of the Bills

Members signed the Commission's bills.

Revere Bell

Chairman of the Bell Committee, Doug Brady, gave an update on the Oxford School bell. Mr. Brady reminded the Commission of the history of the bell starting from its beginnings in 1914 atop the store at the corner of Center street and Main street which is now the Euro Ship Store. The Bell then went to Oxford School until it was removed when the school was sold. The bell has been restored by a historic preservation company that specializes in cleaning brass/bronze. Including the original clapper, that will be displayed inside the bell. The housing that was previously approved by the Select Board is being fabricated by the students at New Bedford Voke where it will find its final resting place on the east side lawn of town hall.

Before the final housing is created the students will build a mock version so the public will have a chance to weigh in on the location and the final size.

Mr. Brady is hoping to have this process completed by the end of the school year.

Rogers School

Mr. Brady said he should have the updated Mass Historical listing application for Rogers School to the Select Board within a few weeks. The entire parcel of Rogers school has been added to the application. The Mass Historical listing does not help protect the building completely but it does open up the possibility to grants and tax credits. There is a preservation listing that can be added to Rogers School also and the Rogers Reuse Committee is looking at the aspect of applying for it and would like to see how the Historical Commission feels about it. The

preservation restriction will be held by the town and will help prevent the building from being altered as well as the land around Rogers School. The town can set what restrictions it would like to see placed on the school and the property around it.

Mr. Brady said a preservation restriction is a good way to preserve the property and maintain the historical look of the building. Members agreed they would all like to see a preservation restriction to keep it in its original state to protect the building. Mr. Silvia did not weigh in on this discussion as he will be discussing this at a future Select Board meeting.

Ms. Carvalho made a motion to allow Mr. Brady to continue with the preservation restriction process. Mr. Lavalette seconded. Vote passed. Selectman Silvia abstained.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Oliveira said through Representative Bill Strauss he has gotten word that the State will not be charging a fee to the Town to work on the pillar and install the plaque. Mr. Oliveira will stay in contact with someone at the State to have the plaque installed. Now that the weather is getting nicer it may not be necessary to have the pillar removed to install the plaque.

Mr. Oliveira updated the Commission on two ongoing at Town hall. The Commission on Disability is exploring the option of placing a chairlift from the hallway into the Collector's Office. Mr. Oliveira will keep the commission updated as more information develops on this project.

Mr. Oliveira said there is discussion of installing mini-split air conditioners in the Banquet Room and in the East Room. The members didn't like the possibility of installing anything into the woodwork or into brick on the outside of the building and would like to see other options explored.

Academy

Mr. Oliveira is trying to get a contractor for the front door project but the Commission still has to use Clearwater Architects because the process has been started with them and it is still cost effective to keep using them rather than find a new architect.

The back door still has not been completed but Mr. Oliveira hopes it will be completed soon.

Fire Museum

The spring street fire museum is up for CPC funding for this year's Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Lavalette will reach out to the sign company regarding the refurbished sign for the Fire Museum.

Fort Phoenix

Mr. Lavalette said the Board of Public Works has lifted their moratorium on benches at Fort Phoenix and will be installing 6 more benches. Mr. Oliveira will replace the tattered flag at the Fort. The electrician will meet with Mr. Oliveira and discuss the electrical unit inside the bunker.

Old Stone School House

Mr. Oliveira has been in contact with Cottill Brothers and will have the work started soon because the price of materials may not come down anytime soon but can do the work in phases.

if need be. The Voke students are fabricating a new fence and the Commission will only have to pay for material and not labor.

Street lamp

Mr. Isaksen and Mr. Oliveira are looking at a few designs and would like to hold a public hearing to gather the public input.

Commission member Mike Kelly left at 7:47 pm

Committee Liaison

Mr. Lavalette said the Requests for Proposals (RFP) are in for Rogers School and feels that some of the designs take away from the look of the school and are still too large. Mr. Oliveira said the commission has an interest in protecting the building and will watch closely what the Select Board decides.

Ms.Carvalho said the Lagoa Committee is meeting once a month to prepare for the art exhibit that will be displayed at Town Hall in the summer.The Lagoa Committee is looking into the idea of also displaying some pottery from Lagoa with the art exhibit.

House Plaque

Nothing at this time

Demo Delay

Nothing at this time

Mr. Lavalette made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm Mr. Braga seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Oliveira
(approved 5/4/2022)

