

**Historical Commission
Minutes
February 1, 2023**

Present: Wayne Oliveira, John Medeiros, Michael Kelly, Natalie Mello, David Braga, MJ Carvalho, Gary Lavalette (remote), Keith Silvia

Absent: Gail Isaksen

Chair Oliveira opened the meeting at 6:33 pm.

Minutes

Ms. Mello made a motion to approve the minutes of January 4, 2023 - Seconded. Mr. Braga
Vote carried.

Financial Report

Mr. Oliveira reviewed the FY23 financial amounts for the Commission and the up-to-date
balances remaining in each account. Total balance \$13,276.60

Signing of the Bills

Members signed the monthly commission's bills for Eversource, Profishant, Inc. and Gary
Lavalette Total of bills \$704.87

Correspondence

Chair Oliveira read a letter from MA. Historical Commission regarding the Oxford Residence at
347 Main Street (Old Oxford School) They have been deemed eligible for inclusion to the
National Register of Historic Places. Letter is placed on file.

Chair Report

Made the Commission members aware that the Town Hall stairs on the William St. side/rear
were pitched in and was retaining water. When they lifted the step, they found significant water
damage to the metal conduit powering the 2 lamp posts at the stairs. The Administration will
work to get repairs made.

Also noted that a dig was conducted at Cooke Park. It was authorized by BPW but, we were
never notified of the activity. Just for the record, this was a private group and it was privately
funded. This Commission gave no permission or sanctioned this to be done. We understand
that the dig found no bodies, bones or evidence of being a cemetery. BPW should now rescind
their earlier vote to refrain from having any fairs or events on the property since it is not proven
that there are bodies buried there.

Academy

The front door is targeted for replacement. Commission will ask the Tourism Director to keep
the hallway door closed to save heat since there is a draft from the front door. Also noted that
the building will be in need of exterior painting and we should be looking into the options of paint
or cedar shingles.

Fire Museum

Washington St. Firehouse: Mr. Braga- Nothing to report. He will keep an eye on the property over the winter months to see what work needs to be done in the Spring.

Spring St. Mr. Oliveira reported that CPC renovations are just about complete. We are just waiting on cedar shingle sealing when the weather warms up. .

Fort Phoenix

Nothing new to report. Keep an eye on the flags for replacement. There was a bill received for repairs to the electrical box at the Fort by the stone wall. Chair was unaware that the damage was done or the Town electrician was hired to make repairs. Bill was not paid.

Old Stone School House

Renovations on that building are complete with the exception of doing the landscaping around the building and adding some stone for drainage and a natural ramp leading up to the front door. Mr. Medeiros is working on guides to staff the Schoolhouse in the summer months starting in May. The Lions club will also assist in cleaning and making minor repairs around the building.

Street Lamp Project

Mr. Nils Isaksen gave an update on the Lamp Project and stated that the poles are due in this week with the lamp heads due in by the end of February. MACO Electric has donated time and materials for installation. The project will get underway as soon as we have all of the components and the weather is mild.

Committee Liaison

Ms. Carvalho – She will be the new Chair of the Lagoa Committee.

Mr. Lavalette: CPC is still meeting. The Historical Commission has no applications in for this round. Town Hall windows project (52 windows) has been approved for restoration.

House Plaques

None

Demo Delay

None reported.

New Business

None

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Mello 2nd Ms. Carvalho Vote carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Oliveira
Historical Commission Chair



Wayne Oliveira <woliveira@fairhaven-ma.gov>

TOWN HALL QUESTIONS

Wayne Oliveira <woliveira@fairhaven-ma.gov>

Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 11:12 AM

To: David Braga <dmbra95@gmail.com>, Gail Isaksen <gallofwind@aol.com>, Gary Lavalette <Garysplumbing@msn.com>, John Medeiros <Johnj.Medeiros@yahoo.com>, Keith Silvia <ksilvia@fairhaven-ma.gov>, Maria Carvalho <lusokid@gmail.com>, Michael Kelly <mjkelly072@gmail.com>, Natalie Mello <natalieamello@gmail.com>, Wayne Oliveira <wayne.oliveira@comcast.net>
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Ms. Ellison,

On behalf of the Fairhaven Historical Commission I have the following questions:

It has come to my attention that you still intend to move the counter in the Selectboard Office in the immediate future.

1. Could you please tell us when this will take place?
2. Who will be moving the counter? Will it be town staff or will you be hiring a professional mover?

This is a piece of Town Hall history and we would like to know that it will be properly moved and stored.

This item served as the counter when that office was the town's first post office when the Town Hall opened in 1894 as has been in that room for 129 years.

There is also a question of asbestos tiles being on that floor, that's why the carpet was added some years ago instead of pulling them up. This will expose a significant portion of the floor once the counter is gone. How will that be addressed?

Secondly,

Could we please have an update on the repairs being made to the North/West (Rear) stairway and lamp posts?

Lastly,

I have asked in the past that you consider appointing or allowing a member of the Historical Commission to sit on the workgroup that has been meeting to formulate a master plan

of work that needs to be done at the Town Hall.

In addition, many residents have complained to me of the tacky appearance of the hand made signs that are posted in the Town Hall lobby with arrows showing them where the Collector's Office is now. I would suggest that a more professionally made poster might be in order for our government offices.

We will be meeting this Wednesday, March 1st at 6:30pm and would like to address these topics.

Thank you for your time,