

**Historical Commission  
Minutes  
March 1, 2023**

**Present:** Wayne Oliveira, John Medeiros, Natalie Mello, David Braga, MJ Carvalho, Gary Lavalette,  
**Absent:** Gail Isaksen, Michael Kelly, Keith Silvia

Chair Oliveira opened the meeting at 6:37 pm.

**Minutes**

Ms. Mello made a motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2023 with one minor correction.  
- 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 in all categories: \$12,796.63

**Signing of the Bills**

Members signed the monthly commission's bills for Eversource, Profishant, Inc., True Value, Rocky's Hardware Total of bills \$700.32 A separate vote was taken to approve payment of the Street Lamp Invoices for Spring City Mfg. totaling \$26,700.00 from the HC Gift Account set up specifically for the Street Lamp Project. Motion by Ms. Carvalho, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Medeiros  
Vote is unanimous

**Correspondence**

Chair Oliveira read a letter from Eversource stating that they will be doing tree trimming around the Washington Street Firehouse Building as part of the overhead wire maintenance program. Letter is placed on file. Also received an email from the BPW Highway Superintendent stating they want to remove the trailer trucks used for storage at the DPW lot. They are asking that we find another location to store the HC items that are in our trailer so that they can reorganize the area and dispose of the trailers.

**Chair Report**

Made the Commission members aware of the following issues: Read an email into the record asking the Town Administrator when she intends to move an antique counter currently in the Selectboard Office and what will happen with it once its removed. Further who will be moving it? Will it be professional movers or town staff? Also asked that a member of the Historical Commission be allowed to serve on the workgroup that was formed to evaluate and recommend restoration work to be done at Town Hall. And asked for an update on the Town Hall stairs on the William St. side/rear that were pitched in and was retaining water and the electrical feed to the lamp posts was rotted. (Email attached as addendum)

Fort Phoenix: The flag pole rope is being replaced and we just need to secure a bucket truck from the Fire Dept. so that we can feed the rope back into the top of the pole and fly the flag again.

Open Meeting Law Complaint by Town resident Karen Vilandry: Ms. Vilandry was not satisfied with our changes to the current agenda format and has asked the AG's office that the complaint be assigned to an attorney for further review. Discussion followed. Chair feels this is simple harassment of the Commission by Ms. Vilandry

Reminded all Commission Members to complete their assigned "Conflict of Interest Training" by March 31.

Chair also noted that the Town Administrator allowed 2 antique cabinets from the Rogers School, that we had requested for use in the Spring Street Firehouse, to be placed in an on-line auction by the Town and were sold for \$1. The Chair expressed his disgust at this reckless loss of antique town property that was requested for continued historic use at one of our properties by the Commission. Instead, our request was discarded and the items sold for a mere one dollar.

There seems to be a disconnect between the Commission and the current administration.

### **Academy**

The front door is still targeted for replacement. The Tourism Director has been using the back door as the main entrance to help save strain on the front door lock.

### **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 and possibly a clean-up of the items stored in there.

Spring St. Mr. Oliveira reported that the last thing that needs to be done was to clear coat the cedar shingles as part of the CPC renovations. The contractor is just waiting on the weather to warm up. Inside preparation for displays are ongoing by the Fairhaven Protecting Society members who run the antique fire trucks.

### **Fort Phoenix**

Nothing new to report. The US flag is down until repairs can be made to the rope which broke and needs to be replaced with the use of a bucket truck. This summer we will look to repaint the front façade of the parapet wall and reshape the grassy mounds.

### **Old Stone School House**

Renovations on that building will be completed this Spring by doing the landscaping around the building and adding some stone for drainage and a natural ramp leading up to the front door. Landscaper Matt Paulson has offered his services to help us do this work.

Mr. Medeiros is working on guides to staff the Schoolhouse in the summer months and is working with the COA and Tourism Office to have senior residents work off the time with tax credits.

### **Street Lamp Project**

Mr. Oliveira gave an update on the project and showed photos of the actual poles and lamp heads that have been delivered and are stored at the BPW. 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 is planning a trip of her own to Lagoa and will be bringing a gift and official greetings from Fairhaven.

Mr. Lavalette: CPC is wrapping up for this season. Town Hall windows project (50 windows) has been approved for restoration and will be on the Warrant for funding at the May Town Meeting.

### **House Plaques**

None

### **Demo Delay**

None reported.

### **New Business**

Ms. Mello would like to see the proposed Fort Encampment Regulations added to the next agenda for input and discussion from the Commission.

Mr. Lavalette stated that he does not have the time to work on the Town Hall Lawn sign that has been slated for updating and replacement. If anyone is interested in taking over that project, please contact the Chair. Mr. Braga suggested that we contact the Town Administrator to see if this is even something she would like us to continue work on. If not, we are just wasting our time and this is really not our responsibility to oversee the signs replacement since we don't get advised of more meaningful work/projects that go on at Town Hall.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Mello 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Carvalho Vote carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Oliveira  
Historical Commission Chair