

**Fairhaven Historical Commission  
Minutes  
August 2, 2023**

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2023 SEP 7 AM 10:04

**Present:** Wayne Oliveira, MJ Carvalho, Michael Kelly, Rick Martin, Natalie Mello, Keith Silvia (6:50pm)

**Absent:** David Braga, Gary Lavalette

**Meeting called to order 6:35pm.**

Welcome to the new Commissioner Rick Martin. Brief introductions of members present.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from July 5, 2023 (MJ Carvalho, M Kelly). Motion passed.

**Financial Report:** Chair Oliveira reported that we are in the first month of the new fiscal year with roughly \$16,000 in total funds available.

**Commission Bills:** Commissioners signed two bills.

1. \$626.25 for Eversource bills and the alarm system at the Academy Building
2. \$353.75 for streetlights from the special privately funded streetlamp gift account (no town money).

**Reorganization of the Commission:** Chair – Wayne Oliveira; Vice Chair – Gary Lavalette; Recording Secretary – Natalie Mello

**Correspondence:** None

**Chair Report:**

1. DPW has provided 2 ornamental concrete pillar caps and a concrete eagle that will be installed near the entryway to the Academy Building and in its garden, respectively.
2. Josh Crabb from the DPW is providing a bluestone walkway from North Street to the Old Stone School. The new walkway will be more accessible to those in wheelchairs.
3. Last week's meeting with the BPW to discuss Cook Park – should it be called a cemetery or a burial ground? Karen Vilandry to check with town counsel on legal ramifications for both. Ms. Vilandry will meet with the Historical Commission to recommend wording of the plaque to the BPW.
4. Need to procure quotes from contractors for re-shingling the three sides of the Academy Building for a CPC proposal.

**Academy Building:** Motion to allow the Fairhaven Historical Society to install one window A/C unit on either the back side or the fire escape side of the building on the second floor (N Mello, M Kelly). Motion passed.

**Fire Museum:**

- Washington Street – no report.
- Spring Street – Need to rebuild the back door – awaiting quotes.

**Fort Phoenix:** Nothing new to report. Still awaiting a response from Bristol County Sheriff's office to paint the front parapet wall.

**Old Stone Schoolhouse:** M. Kelly only got the key today so hasn't yet been inside. Is planning to open the School on some Saturdays.

**Streetlamp Project:** Nils Isaksen first thanked all who have made this effort possible through donated time, labor, and money. The project is getting close to completion. Twelve cobblestones have gone to the engraver; more need to be picked to protect the base from lawn maintenance machines. Need to choose bulbs – flicker or steady? Ready to mount cabinets and pull wire. M. Kelly reminded the Commission of the importance of having a public lighting ceremony to publicly thank donors.

**House Plaques:** Megan and Timothy Hunt presented research to support installing an historic plaque on their house at 93 Fort Street. Lots of discrepancies in the dates in the records. Motion to approve a plaque reading: *Edwin Stowell, Tack Maker, Circa 1880* (MJ Carvalho, N Mello). Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Lagoa Committee:** MJ Carvalho reported that there are 3 new committee members. The committee is planning to participate in Our Lady of the Angels Feast on Labor Day Weekend. The committee made a banner commemorating the feast tradition that began in Lagoa. Anyone with roots in the Lagoa area is invited to march with the committee on Monday, September 4, 2023. Report to MJ at 12:45pm.

**Demo Delay:** None

**New Business:** R. Martin reported that a new group has been created to maintain the gardens at Cook Park: Poverty Point Garden Champions.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023

**Motion to Adjourn** (MJ Carvalho, M. Kelly). Motion passed.