

Fairhaven Historical Commission
Minutes
June 12, 2024

Present: Nicole Arruda, Nate Bekemeier, Michael Kelly, Beth Luey, Rick Martin, Natalie Mello, Wayne Oliveira, Keith Silvia (Select Board Liaison)

Present via Zoom: Cam Durant (Staff Liaison)

Meeting called to order 6:33pm by Michael Kelly, Chair.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from May 8, 2024 (R Martin, W Oliveira). Motion passed with one abstain (B Luey). Motion to approve minutes from May 13, 2024, with the addition of B Luey's name to the list of attendees (R Martin, W Oliveira). Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: See attached Budget Balance Sheet as of 6/12/24.

Commission Bills:

- Motion to approve payment of invoices to Eversource (\$752.33), Fairhaven Alarm Systems (Academy Building \$280.00), Next Level Gutters (Old Stone School \$450.), Woodward Auto (\$69.99), for a total of \$1552.32 (N Mello, N Bekemeier). Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Report:

- Introduction of new officers: Michael Kelly, Chair; Natalie Mello, Vice Chair and acting Clerk. Thanks to W Oliveira for his years of service to the Commission and the Town.
- Vision of the new chair:
 - Develop and impose term limits on the Chair position (perhaps 4 years?); and,
 - Open more properties up to the public.

Properties update:

- **Academy Building:** Front door is nearly complete – contractor must replace broken fan glass. Repointing is needed in the basement. Key box is currently located on backside of building. Fire escape is currently okay but will need attention in the future. The roof continues to leak, that project is out to bid. Painters discovered rotten clapboards and molding when prepping to paint the front façade. Motion to approve an additional \$800 to address rot issue while painting the façade (N Mello, N Bekemeier). Motion passed unanimously.
- **Fire Museums:**
 - Washington Street – No updates
 - Spring Street – Plans to move antique desk from Town Hall to the Fire House.
- **Fort Phoenix:** - No update.
- **Old Stone Schoolhouse:** Opened on Memorial Day and 129 people visited!

Discussion/Action Items:

- Academy Building use post-retirement of Director of Tourism. Motion to direct the Chair of the Commission to write to the Town Administrator and the Select Board encouraging them to place the office of the person hired as the Community Development Coordinator in the Academy Building as it is critical to its maintenance and protection that there be a regular presence in that building (N Mello, B Luey). Motion passed unanimously.
- Archival records are kept in Millicent Library in a binder and are accessible to the public. It is also possible to look up houses by address. The Commission keeps records of all plaques bestowed in the Black Box for at least 8 years.
- A Fairhaven sesquicentennial (150) coin was sent to the Commission.

Committee Report:

- Community Preservation Committee – No report as they haven't met.

Commission Member Items:

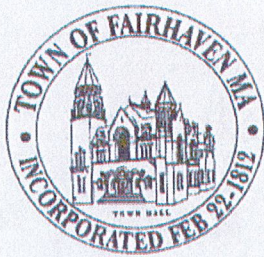
- R Martin shared his experience with the "Passport to History" program initiated by Old Colony History Museum in Taunton.
- W Oliveira suggested that the Commission identify properties that might need work so that we can prepare a grant application to the CPC if appropriate.
- B Luey reminded the Commission and the public that the Fairhaven Historical Society has created an exhibit of Fairhaven Schools that is open to the public in the Museum (located on the 2nd floor of the Academy Building).

Public Comment:

- Nils Isaakson described his efforts to work Town Hall to relocate phone lines from the front of the building to the rear of the building. The phone line is needed for the emergency phone in the elevator. He will continue to work to get the fiber optic cable relocated also.

Regularly scheduled meeting: July 10, 2024

Motion to Adjourn at 7:20pm (N Mello, B Luey). Motion passed unanimously.



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

Historical Commission

Budget Balances

Name	Total	
Historical Commission	\$	123.96
Academy Building	\$	1,297.49
Fire Museum	\$	237.98
Fort Phoenix	\$	1,424.93
Old Stone School house on North Street	\$	350.00
Manjiro House	\$	3,000.00
Antique Fire Trucks	\$	112.66
Grand total	\$	6,547.02

Historical Commission Gift Account	\$1,708.42
Fort Phoenix Gift Account	\$ 569.45
Fort Restitution Account	\$ 0.0