

Fairhaven Historical Commission
Minutes
August 7, 2024

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

Present via Zoom: Natalie Mello

Absent: Nate Bekemeier, Cam Durant (Staff Liaison)

Meeting called to order 6:37pm by Michael Kelly, Chair.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from July 17, 2024 (B Luey, N Arruda). Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: See attached 2025 Budget Balance Sheet as of August 6, 2024.

Commission Bills:

- No bills as of August 6, 2024.

Chair Report:

- Update on meeting with New Bedford Whaling Museum. The Whaling Museum discontinued the loan to the town of Fairhaven and instead transferred the loan of the cannon directly to Northeast Martime. No longer the Commission's responsibility. There is potential for future collaboration with the Whaling Museum.

Properties update:

- **Academy Building:** B Luey met with K Fournier to identify building needs and possible fixes. The building is not ADA compliant because the back door opens out. The Commission might want to invest in heat pumps in the future to reduce future energy costs. There is lots of tourism literature left in the building – need to determine what is outdated and what to save and where to store it. The roof leak is due to wind from the southwest lifting shingles allowing water to seep in. The roof is 15 years old – should it be replaced or fixed? Average lifespan of a roof is typically 25 to 30 years. Current estimate from Vaz Roofing to strip and replace is \$16,000. LePage will be providing an estimate as well. Could a new roof be applied over the current roof?
- **Fire Museums:**
 - Washington Street – No update.
 - Spring Street – Trucks being run often.
- **Fort Phoenix:** - N Mello to do a walk around with M Jenney to assess what maintenance needs to be done.
- **Old Stone Schoolhouse:** R Martin staffed the site on July 26th and there were 13 visitors.

Discussion/Action Items:

- John Medeiros came to discuss the 1914 Oxford School weathervane which is currently being stored in the Millicent Library archives. It needs many repairs, and he would like to see it repaired and displayed in North Fairhaven. Motion to direct the Chair to send a letter to the Selectboard and Town Administrator asking them to gift the weathervane to the North Fairhaven Improvement Association (B Luey, W Oliveira). Motion passed unanimously.
- The Commission discussed the proposal to move 2 town IT staff to the Academy Building. Motion to direct the Chair to write a letter to the Town Administrator stating that the Commission does not believe that the IT Department moving to the Academy Building is a perfect solution given the legacy of the Building, but it is more important that the building be occupied 5 days a week and the Commission hopes that the new Coordinator's office could be in the building (B Luey, N Arruda). Motion passed unanimously.
- The Commission discussed the storage of town property. W Oliveira currently has possession of the bronze bridge plaque that cannot be reinstalled. Typically, the carriage wheels for the two field guns at the Fort are removed each winter for maintenance and returned in the spring. Where to store these and other items? The Commission will check with the BPW to see if there is a possibility of using their park storage area.
- R Martin reported that he had been going through the records at the Millicent Library and that 6 boxes had been reduced to 4. Next he will go through the filing cabinet that stores house information in an effort to index historical houses in town.

Committee Report:

- Community Preservation Committee – Next meeting August 21, 2024. Deadline for grant submissions is September 27, 2024. The Commission needs to decide if we will apply for a grant to fix the exterior of the Academy Building (roof and shingling three sides).

Commission Member Items:

- See discussion above regarding CPC grant.

Public Comment: None

Regularly scheduled meeting: September 4, 2024

Motion to Adjourn at 7:53pm (N Mello, N Arruda). Motion passed unanimously.



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

Historical Commission

Budget Balances

Name	Total
Historical Commission	\$ 500.00
Academy Building	\$ 7,500.00
Fire Museum	\$ 2,000.00
Fort Phoenix	\$ 3,500.00
Old Stone School house on North Street	\$ 100.00
Manjiro House	\$ 1,000.00
Antique Fire Trucks	\$ 1,200.00
Grand total	\$ 15,800.00