

Fairhaven Historical Commission
Minutes
September 4, 2024

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

Absent: Cam Durant (Staff Liaison)

Meeting called to order 6:30pm by Michael Kelly, Chair.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes as amended from August 7, 2024 (B Luey, N Arruda). Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: See attached 2025 Budget Balance Sheet as of September 4, 2024.

Commission Bills:

- Motion to approve payment of invoices to Eversource and Fairhaven Alarms for a total of \$404.97 (N. Mello, W. Oliveira). Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Report:

- Update on Fort Phoenix walkthrough with M. Jenney (Veteran Services Agent) and N. Mello – see details below in properties update.
- Update on Rogers School – The Commission received a letter from the Commonwealth regarding the application to put the Rogers School on the list of Historic Properties requesting more information. The consultants that were hired by the Town will respond to these requests at no additional cost to the Town. The Commission would like to invite Sue Loo to present to the Commission at a convenient date.

Properties update:

- **Academy Building:** B. Luey met with K. Fournier, who had met with C. Richards, to identify who owns the property left in his former office. All remaining is town property. The mannequins can go to the Fire Museum. Items in the cabinet will go to the Historical Society Museum but remain downstairs. K. Fournier is still awaiting estimate from LePage.
- **Fire Museums:**
 - Washington Street – No update.
 - Spring Street – The back door needs a kickplate based at the bottom of the door to minimize damage from wildlife. The door needs to be replaced with a replacement lock.
- **Fort Phoenix:** Walkthrough with M. Kelly, M. Jenney and N. Mello on Wednesday August 14, 2024. After dismantling the impromptu memorial that reappeared on the anniversary of a young man's death, we walked around the Fort to determine a punch list of projects that need to be completed this fall.
 - The carriage wheels on the two field guns will be removed after Veterans' Day and stored at the DPW storage facility.
 - Light at the base of the flagpole needs to be replaced.
 - Carriages of all cannons need to be repainted.
 - A new pin is needed in the lower hinge on the bunker door.
 - M. Jenney to ask DPW to trim growth on the east and south facing walls of the Fort so that the wall can be whitewashed.

We discovered that the flag cannot be changed now due to the interior ropes being snagged within the flagpole itself. M. Jenney to work with DPW to get bucket truck at address the issue as soon as possible.

M. Jenney will determine a schedule with dates for the carriage painting and wall whitewashing. We will share with the Commission and encourage volunteers to assist with these efforts.

- **Old Stone Schoolhouse:** The site was open on August 17 and welcomed 27 visitors. It will be open again on Saturday September 14th.

Discussion/Action Items:

1. CPC Project submission: The Commission discussed various projects that could be done this year but decided that the priority was the Academy Building. M. Kelly and N. Arruda will complete the application for a new roof, to have three sides of the building sided with white cedar shingles and to make the rear door ADA compliant.

2. New locks on town buildings: The Town is changing locks on many town owned properties (Fort Bunker, Academy Building, Old Stone Schoolhouse, Town Hall) because no one knows who has keys to them. This is being done for the safety and preservation of the properties and to minimize liability.
3. Proper use and procedures for Town Properties under Historical Commission oversight: Volunteers who provide services to the Town are to be commended for their efforts. However, volunteer efforts without structure is chaos. These efforts need to be overseen and managed so that all involved are protected (properties, Town and volunteers). Motion to direct the Chair to go to the Selectboard with a proposal for an application process that would provide access to properties managed by the Commission (B. Luey, N. Mello). The motion was approved.

Roll call vote:

N. Arruda – Aye M. Kelly – Aye N. Bekemeier – Aye W. Oliveira – Nay
 R. Martin – Aye B. Luey – Aye N. Mello – Aye

Committee Report:

- Community Preservation Committee – Next meeting October 2, 2024. Deadline for grant submissions is September 27, 2024.

Commission Member Items:

- Motion to approve the proposal as submitted by the Veterans Service Agent for flag management protocol (N. Mello, N. Bekemeier). Motion passed with 6 in favor and 1 opposed. See attached proposed Protocol for details.

Public Comment:

- John Medeiros inquired about the status of the weathervane. The Chair confirmed that he had written the letter to the Select Board giving the weathervane to the North Fairhaven Improvement Association. All is in limbo until the NFIA decides that it wants the weathervane.

Regularly scheduled meeting: October 2, 2024

Motion to Adjourn at 7:41pm (N. Mello, N. Arruda). Motion passed unanimously.



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN
Historical Commission
 Budget Balances

Name	Total
Historical Commission	\$ 500.00
Academy Building	\$ 7,231.71
Fire Museum	\$ 1,942.16
Fort Phoenix	\$ 3,421.16
Old Stone School house on North Street	\$ 100.00
Manjiro House	\$ 1,000.00
Antique Fire Trucks	\$ 1,200.00
Grand total	\$ 15,395.03

Historical Commission Gift Account	\$ TBD
Fort Gift Account	\$ 569.45
Fort Restitution Account	\$ 0

FORT PHOENIX FLAG MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

In the event that the American flag or flag pole needs repair or maintenance the following protocols will be followed.

First call is to the VSO.

If the VSO is unavailable then the Historic commission chair will be called.

Should both be unavailable then the DPW will be contacted.

When repair is completed an email from the party who does the repairs will be sent to all parties letting them know the repair has been completed.

The VSO and Historic commission will establish a regular maintenance schedule for the Fort.