

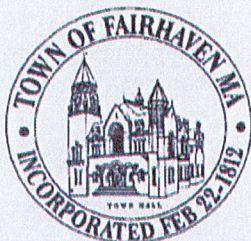
Fairhaven Historical Commission
Minutes
February 4, 2025

Present: Nate Bekemeier, Michael Kelly, Beth Luey, Rick Martin, Natalie Mello, Keith Silvia (Select Board Liaison), Alyssa Botelho (Staff Liaison)

Absent: Wayne Oliveira, Nicole Arruda

1. **Meeting called to order 6:33pm by Michael Kelly, Chair.**
2. **Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from January 8, 2025 (B Luey, R Martin). Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** See attached 2025 Budget Balance Sheet as of February 4, 2025.
 - Motion to approve payment of invoices to Eversource and Ray's of New Bedford for a total of \$540.76 [see attached listing of bills] (N Bekemeier, N Mello). Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Chair Report:**
 - Update on CPC application process: original application specified \$85,000 for the Academy Building Project; however an additional bid to bring the restroom and the back entrance into ADA compliance brings to total to \$135,000. CPC to review all applications on February 5th.
 - Revisit the meeting day for the FHC at our next scheduled meeting.
 - One Commissioner has missed 5 of the last 7 meetings and was asked if he would consider stepping down to provide someone else the opportunity to be an active participant in the Commission's deliberations. The Town deserves active members.
3. **Properties update:**
 - A. **Academy Building:** see below
 - B. **Fire Museums:**
 - a. Washington Street – N/A
 - b. Spring Street – N/A
 - C. **Fort Phoenix:** see below
 - D. **Old Stone Schoolhouse:** Photographer McSweeney, a self-published book author of various sites in Fairhaven, visited the Schoolhouse and was very impressed.
6. **Discussion/Action Items:**
 1. **Fort Phoenix Flagpole:** There is a need to replace the existing 31.5' flagpole at the Fort. Bete-Fleming provided an estimate for a 30' (exposed) pole specifically designed to withstand high winds and severe weather with an internal halyard, installed is \$3064. This does not include the removal of the current pole. To install a 35' pole the cost would be \$4003. Chair Kelly to pursue possibility of the town paying for this expense with Mike Jenny, Veterans Agent. There are opportunities to raise the funds if the town is unable or unwilling to pay for the replacement.
 2. **Academy Building Roof Repair:** Motion to accept the bid from LePage & Sons to fix the roof due to wind damage (N. Mello, B. Luey). Motion passed unanimously.
 3. **Discuss changes to Huttleston Market:** A Botelho reported that due to staffing issues at the Town Hall the ability to host weekly markets is no longer possible. Instead, there will be a series of monthly events at Grimshaw Park in collaboration with the Council on Aging running from May through September. The first to occur will be centered around [MA250](#) and will be promoted by the Commonwealth as part of the 250th anniversary of the country.
 4. **New policy proposal regarding third party billing.** Members of the public were allowed to comment, and they included Alex Keuchler (in person), Brian Messier and Doug Brady (both vis Zoom), all members of the Fairhaven Protecting Society. A letter to the Commission submitted by Wayne Oliveira on behalf of the Protecting Society was read into the minutes (see last page). Motion to allow the Chair to make a decision on antique truck repairs in an emergency situation within 72 hours while anticipated larger expenses are to be presented to the Commission before money is spent (N. Mello, N. Bekemeier). Motion passed unanimously. Motion that any organization that has the authority to spend Commission funds in excess of \$200 needs the approval of the Commission in advance; in emergency situation the Chair can make a decision within 72 hours, not to exceed \$500 (N. Mello, R. Martin). Motion passed unanimously.
 5. **Request from the Lagoa Committee for a liaison from the Commission.** No members in attendance could attend the next Lagoa Committee meeting on March 3rd, but perhaps one of the two absent Commissioners might like to be the liaison.

7. **Committee Liaison Report:**
 - Community Preservation Committee – Next meeting February 5, 2025 when deliberations will occur.
8. **Commission Member Items:** None.
9. **Public Comment:** None.
10. **Regularly scheduled meeting:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:30pm
11. **Motion to Adjourn at 7:01pm** (N Mello, B. Luey). Motion passed unanimously.



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

Historical Commission

Budget Balances

| Name | Total |
|--|-------------|
| Historical Commission | \$ 500.00 |
| Academy Building | \$ 6,046.86 |
| Fire Museum | \$ 1,299.92 |
| Fort Phoenix | \$ 2,929.12 |
| Old Stone School house on North Street | \$ 100.00 |
| Manjiro House | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Antique Fire Trucks | \$ 951.20 |

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Grand total | \$ 12,827.10 |
|--------------------|---------------------|

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Historical Commission Gift Account | \$ 1,158 |
| Fort Gift Account | \$ 569.45 |
| Fort Restitution Account | \$ 0 |

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN
SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL BILLS PAYABLE

VOUCHER #

To the Accounting Officer:

The following named bills of the HISTORICAL COMMISSION Department amount
in the Aggregate to **\$540.76** Dollars and has been approved
by the Department, and you are requested to place them on a warrant for payment.

DATE: 2/10/25

Michael Kelly, Chair

Prepared by & Title

| VENDOR NUMBER | VENDOR NAME | ACCOUNT NUMBER | INVOICE NUMBER | TOTAL |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 6850 | Eversource | 001-670-00-5201-02-1241 | 10625 | 22.15 |
| 6850 | Eversource | 001-670-00-5201-02-1241 | 10625 | 21.00 |
| 6850 | Eversource | 001-670-00-5201-02-1241 | 10625 | 16.76 |
| 6850 | Eversource | 001-670-00-5201-01-1241 | 10625 | 262.55 |
| 6850 | Eversource | 001-670-00-5201-01-1241 | 10625 | 73.47 |
| 6850 | Eversource | 001-670-00-5201-03-1241 | 10625 | 119.34 |
| | Ray's of New Bedford | 001-670-00-5201-02-1241 | 758799 | 25.49 |
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| | | | | |
| | | | TOTAL | 540.76 |

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Dear fellow Commission members:

Since I cannot attend the meeting in person, I would ask that this letter be shared with the Commission members at the meeting.

I would like to address the issue of gaining pre approval before spending Commission funds.

For a brief history, the Fairhaven Protecting Society is a group of volunteers organized in 1887 to watch over, repair and operate the antique fire apparatus owned by the Town.

Some years ago, Town Administrator, Mark Rees helped us to acquire funds to be used for the repair and maintenance of these 4 town owned trucks. Prior to that the repairs came from donations or out of pocket money from the volunteers who take care of these trucks. He placed it in the Commission budget for a lack of another appropriate spot, similar to that of the money the Commission holds for the Manjiro House. This money can only be used for the care and maintenance of the antique trucks.

I can understand that you want to have accountability of funds placed within the Commission budget but, to date this process has worked just fine. When parts are needed to keep the trucks running the Protecting Society purchases the parts from a town sanctioned vendor where we already have a tax-exempt account set up or it is taken to the DPW Garage for repairs. The Commission then approves the payment of said invoice and submits it for payment. If the Commission feels the invoice is not appropriate, they can always kick the invoice back to the Protecting Society or ask for further explanation of the expense. To date the Protecting Society has always used the highest discretion when having a vehicle repaired or the purchases of the necessary parts. Pre-approval for this process would only serve to slow the repair process down and the repair garage is not going to hold a vehicle in pieces while we get approval from a body that only meets monthly.

A case in point is that we currently have a truck up at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech having an oil leak repaired. When they find the problem, they will purchase the parts on our behalf and the parts store invoices us directly. We have no idea what parts will be needed until the engine is opened up and can be evaluated. We pay no labor charge for the repairs at Voc-Tech. We can't ask them to stop the repair process while we get approval to purchase the needed parts as their space is at a premium.

A second case could be when we are scheduled to be at a fair or parade and the truck won't start due to a dead battery or a readily available part that could simply be purchased and put the truck back in service.

Sometimes these repairs are time sensitive and need to be addressed sooner than later.

Would it be possible to simply notify the Chair that repairs or parts are needed so that the Chair can expect an invoice to follow? Could a possible solution be that this line item be placed in a different dept. budget? The Protecting Society is doing all of this on their own time and are simply asking that we keep this process as simple and straightforward as possible so that we can keep these cherished antiques running for public enjoyment.

Respectfully,

Wayne Oliveira

On behalf of the Fairhaven Protecting Society