

Fairhaven Historical Commission  
Minutes  
February 12, 2025

**Present:** Nate Bekemeier, Michael Kelly, Beth Luey, Rick Martin, Natalie Mello, Wayne Oliveira

**Absent:** Nicole Arruda

1. **Meeting called to order 6:02 pm by Michael Kelly, Chair.**
2. **Discussion and formulation of response to Open Meeting Law complaint filed by Wayne Oliveira:** Chair Kelly read the text of the Open Meeting Law complaint. Members of the Commission expressed their opinions about the complaint. W. Oliveira shared his thoughts on why he filed the complaint. Chair Kelly shared guidance from the MA Attorney General's Office regarding Open Meeting Law as well as the dictionary definition of the word "slander". W. Oliveira left the meeting at 6:14pm. Motion to contest the accusation of Open Meeting Law violation levied by W. Oliveira (N. Mello, N. Bekemeier). Motion passed unanimously. Chair Kelly to draft a response and share it with the Commission members. Upon their approval it will be shared with the Attorney General's Office and W. Oliveira.
3. **Brief update on the status of Fort Phoenix Flagpole – Donations for funding:** Discussion centered on the generous donations by three Commission members and their spouses that will enable the Commission to move forward with replacing the Flagpole at the Fort without having to ask the Town for money. Chair Kelly is awaiting another bid from Bete-Fleming for a tabernacle type flagpole, similar to the one at Town Hall, but that will withstand the weather conditions at the Fort. Given the amount donated, it is possible that we may be able to replace the flagpole, the base and the lighting at the Fort. Motion to formally and gratefully acknowledge the donations that Rick and Monica Martin, Nate Bekemeier and Penny Brewer, Michael and Michelle Kelly, and Alyssa Botelho have pledged to donate toward replacing the flagpole (N. Mello, B. Luey). Motion passed unanimously.
4. Motion to Adjourn at 6:37pm (N Mello, N. Bekemeier). Motion passed unanimously.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:30 in the Town Hall.