

Fairhaven Historical Commission  
Minutes  
March 4, 2025

**Present:** Nate Bekemeier, Michael Kelly, Beth Luey, Rick Martin, Natalie Mello, Keith Silvia (Select Board Liaison)  
**Via Zoom:** Alyssa Botelho (Staff Liaison)  
**Absent:** Nicole Arruda

1. **Meeting called to order 6:31pm by Michael Kelly, Chair.**
2. **Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from February 4 and 12, 2025 with the date corrected on the 2/12/25 minutes (B Luey, N Bekemeier). Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** See attached 2025 Budget Balance Sheet as of March 4, 2025.
  - Motion to approve payment of invoices to Eversource and Brewer Banners for a total of \$626.99 [see attached listing of bills] (N Mello, B Luey). Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Chair Report:**
  - *Historical Commission vacancy* – any interested members of the community are invited to apply through the Select Board.
  - *Update of Fort Phoenix Flagpole:* Motion to approve the quote provided by Bete Fleming to replace the existing flagpole with 30' Venus Apollo Series Severe weather fiberglass flagpole in the amount of \$3,339.00 (N Mello, B Luey). Motion passed unanimously.
  - *Grant Opportunities:* There are two possible opportunities to secure grant funding. The first is related to documented historical battlefields, The Battlefield Restoration Grant administered under the National Parks Service, which requires no matching funds, and the amounts awarded go from \$20,000 to \$200,000. There are many areas in the Fort that need repair: Door to bunker, cannon caissons, the wall, and lighting for the flag. The second grant opportunity was deemed to be unattainable given that the deadline has passed.
  - *Eagle Scout Project:* Motion to approve Chair Kelly's signing of the required documentation for James Edminster, candidate for Eagle Scout (N Bekemeier, N Mello). Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Properties update:**
  - A. **Academy Building:**
    - a. In an effort to increase traffic to the Museum during the summer months, the Fairhaven Historical Society will be hosting lectures and talks on Saturday mornings. Motion to approve the Society using the first-floor classroom as a venue to deliver lectures and talks (N Mello, N Bekemeier). Motion passed unanimously.
    - b. Issue of the Society not having a key to access the Academy Building. There is no process in place for key distribution at the moment. Motion to issue a key to Rick Martin, as a member of the Commission, for the Academy Building (N Mello, N Bekemeier). Motion passed unanimously.
  - B. **Fire Museums:**
    - a. Washington Street – N/A
    - b. Spring Street – The Commission needs a volunteer to be responsible for this building.
  - C. **Fort Phoenix:** N/A
  - D. **Old Stone Schoolhouse:** A 2025 schedule for when the Schoolhouse will be open is forthcoming.
6. **House Plaque Application:** Mark Wilson, 100 Weeden Road applied for a plaque. Motion to approve the application and issue a plaque with the words "Delano – Weeden, circa 1728" (N Bekemeier, B Luey). Motion passed unanimously.
7. **Discussion/Action Items:**
  1. Special Guest Pat Carr regarding the FHS building project – The Commission determined that they would like the opinion of legal counsel before entertaining this discussion. Depending upon that advice, Mr. Carr may be invited to the next meeting.
  2. Assignment of Grant Applications – Chair Kelly will take the lead on the Battleground Grant Application with Ms. Luey offering additional assistance.

7. **Committee Liaison Report:**

- Community Preservation Committee – The CPC approved the application for the Academy Building improvements (cedar shingle siding on three sides, ADA compliant restroom and back entry) in the amount of \$135,000. It will now go before Town Meeting.

8. **Commission Member Items:** None.

9. **Public Comment:** None.

10. **Regularly scheduled meeting:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 6:30pm

11. **Motion to Adjourn at 7:22pm** (N Mello, B. Luey). Motion passed unanimously.



## TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

### Historical Commission

#### Budget Balances

Name	Total
Historical Commission	\$ 500.00
Academy Building	\$ 5,625.38
Fire Museum	\$ 1,240.88
Fort Phoenix	\$ 2,782.65
Old Stone School house on North Street	\$ 100.00
Manjiro House	\$ 1,000.00
Antique Fire Trucks	\$ 951.20
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$ 12,200.11</b>

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 **\$626.99** Dollars and has been approved  
by the Department, and you are requested to place them on a warrant for payment.

DATE: 3/10/25

Michael Kelly, Chair

Prepared by & Title

VENDOR NUMBER	VENDOR NAME	ACCOUNT NUMBER	INVOICE NUMBER	TOTAL
6850	Eversource	001-670-00-5201-02-1241	20525	21.00
6850	Eversource	001-670-00-5201-02-1241	20525	21.65
6850	Eversource	001-670-00-5201-02-1241	20525	16.39
6850	Eversource	001-670-00-5201-01-1241	20525	81.36
6850	Eversource	001-670-00-5201-01-1241	20525	340.12
6850	Eversource	001-670-00-5201-03-1241	20525	109.57
62549	Brewer Banner	001-670-00-5201-03-1241	48117	36.90
			TOTAL	626.99