

Fairhaven Historical Commission
Minutes
June 3, 2025

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2025 JUL 17 AM 2:31

Present: Members: Eleanor Chew, Beth Luey, Rick Martin, Michael Kelly, Alyssa Botelho (Staff Liaison), Natalie Mello (Selectboard Liaison)

Absent: Nate Bekemeier, Michael Silva

- 1. Meeting called to order 6:35pm by Michael Kelly, Chair**
- 2. Minutes:** Approval of minutes delayed due to lack of Clerk. Michael Kelly to draft and submit minutes for both May 6 & June 3 meetings for approval at July meeting.
- 3. Financial report:** Motion to approve payment of invoices to Eversource, Bete-Fleming (Fort Flagpole), Brewer Banner (Fort Phoenix severe weather flag.) Total of \$3,838.00. Flagpole and flag came 100% from the gift account due to donations. (B. Luey, R. Martin) Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Chair Report:**
 - a. Welcome to new member Eleanor Chew to position on the Historical Commission.
 - b. Noted one remaining vacancy on the Historical Commission
 - c. Fort Phoenix flagpole is up and flag is flying. Fairhaven TV recorded the event and it can be viewed at their website. Nice turnout of veterans and townspeople for the raising ceremony.
- 5. Properties update:**
 - a. Academy Building: Beth noted that the major cleaning of the museum will take place on June 4, to ready it for the summer season. Renovation project will be put out to formal bid as the total exceeds \$75,000.
 - b. Fire museums: no update due to absence of members who oversee the properties. But looking for an inaugural opening for Homecoming Fair.
 - c. Fort Phoenix: Eagle Scout candidate delayed due to unseasonably bad weather. Evidence of attempted break in at bunker. Padlocks were struck several times with a large rock. Slight cosmetic damage. Noted that bunker is empty.
 - d. Old Stone Schoolhouse: Memorial Day opening welcomed 79 people to the schoolhouse.
- 6. House Plaque Applications:** None, but July meeting will have one.
- 7. Discussion/Action Items:**
 - a. Had to postpone officer elections due to missing members.
 - b. Notice that Michael Kelly will attend Selectboard meeting on June 9th to present the proposed gift of the 1814 "Nimrod" cannon by the New

Bedford Whaling Museum to the Town of Fairhaven. Special thanks to Eric Dawicki and the Northeast Maritime Institute for caring for the cannon for the past 10 years while it sat in the saline bath. Motion to have Michael Kelly represent the Commission at the Selectboard meeting (B. Luey, E. Chew) Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Language for signs to post at Historical Commission Events/Projects: Motion to approve language agreed upon (B. Luey, R. Martin) M.Kelly, B. Luey, R. Martin yea, E. Chew abstained. Motion passed.
- d. Old Colony Passport to History: Did not get accepted to the passport this year due to not having any artifacts from the King Philip's War. But the Historical Society Museum and Cook Memorial were given honorable mentions and will receive publicity.
- e. Historical Survey: Rick will reach out to Ann Richard to discuss opportunity for CPC funding. Rick has already begun photographing houses with historical markers.
- f. Natalie Mello raised the idea of moving the date cutoff for eligibility for a house plaque. Currently Home has to be built before 1924, which means homes now 100 years old would not qualify. Mass Historical uses 75 years as age to be considered a historical property. Also should consider how this applies to Demolition Delays.

8. Committee Liaison Report

- a. CPC: Liaison position still open
- b. Lagoa Society: Rick Martin confirmed.

9. Commission Member Items:

- a. E. Chew inquired about social media post about "medieval fair" at Fort Phoenix. Alyssa was able to provide context as this is part of the Huttleston Harborfest events.
- b. B. Luey announced that her play *Mark Twain & Henry Huttleston Rogers in Their Own Words* will be performed at the Shepherd Center on November 6.

10. Public Comment: None

11. Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 @ 6:30pm

12. Motion to adjourn at 7:04pm (E. Chew, B. Luey) Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Kelly
Chair