

Fairhaven Historical Commission
Minutes
July 1, 2025

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

1. Meeting called to order by Michael Kelly, Chair

2. Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as amended for May 6, 2025 were approved. (B. Luey/N. Bekemeier) Vote was 5 yes and 1 abstention. Motion to approve the June 3, 2025 minutes were approved. For Weeden Road as that was the preferred address. (B. Luey/N, Bekemeier) Motion passed

3. Historic House Plaque Application: Motion was made to move item 6 up to the next item. Nicholas and Shayna Jones spoke to us requesting approval of a house plaque for their 54 Washington St property, The Jones' provided documentation that the house was built circa 1889. The motion was made to authorize/ approve the historic plaque with the address of ~~Weeden Road~~ Washington Street. (N. Bekemeier/ R. Martin). Motion passed. The chair signed the form authorizing the sign for them to take to the sign company.

4. Financial Report: Motion to approve payment of invoices to Eversource, and others. The total amount authorized was \$3,838.00. The lights for the flagpole at Fort Phoenix are covered and will light three sides of the flag Motion passed. (E.Chew/R. Martin)

5. Chair Report:

- a. Fort Phoenix Flagpole: we are waiting for the lights to arrive so they can be installed
- b. Nimrod Cannon: The Select Board approved the acceptance of the cannon in perpetuity. He met with ~~Erik~~ Eric Dawicki, and it was cast in 1778. The Whaling Museum is donating a case for the cannon. Eleanor asked if we were going to do an unveiling party when it is all set. The Historical Commission will be responsible for the cannon
- c. Fort ~~Phoenix~~ Phoenix: Painting of the cannon is being worked on and Nate suggested we contact Kirby Paint for information on the proper paint for the project.
- d. Met with Jennifer Frates who is handling all the details of the Academy Building. Three sides of the building will be shingled, the bathroom is being made ADA compliant, and the back door needs an opener that meets ADA standards
- e. Incident at Firehouse: Mike K. read a letter re: the incident at the Washington St. Firehouse on July 28th. Natalie said the SB has not met since that incident. Beth asked how we tell the Historical Society about this. Eleanor said we need to be sure to document any incidents in writing ASAP after the incident, so we had long term documentation

6. Properties Update:

- a. Academy Building: Beth noted that the upstairs looks good, and town items need to be moved from the museum. Rick said the Historical Society cleaned the classroom, asking who is responsible for cleaning the rest of the building. Alyssa said the Building Manager for the town does some. Beth said the garden was not there initially when the building was built asking if we needed one there now.
- b. Fire Museums- Washington St: Mike s said 30 plus people came to view the firehouse. For the first time it has ever been opened and that visitors were excited to see the inside. Spring St: Mike K said the commission needs to take control of the building as the Protecting Society made more keys. Mike said the locks are being changed next week and the keys will not be able to be duplicated. Nate said that Alex has the institutional knowledge of the building/history
- c. Fort Phoenix: Mike K, said the flag is still in great condition a month after being hung.
- d. Old Stone Schoolhouse: Mike K said 18 people came. He said there is a donation box there to cover supplies. Eleanor asked if this was legal according to town policy and Mike said he would look into this.

7. House Plaque Applications: See above for action on this item

8. Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Reorganization: Chair: Mike Kelly was nominated and there was a second Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote. (N. Berkemeier/ B. Luey)
Vice-Chair: Nate Bekemeier was nominated and there was a second. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote (E.Chew/ M. Kelly)
Clerk: Eleanor Chew was nominated as Clerk and there was a second. (B. Luey/N. Bekemeier)
The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote. (B. Luey/ N. Bekemeier)
- b. CPC Liaison" A motion was made to have Nate serve as our liaison ~~to~~to the CPC. The motion passed unanimously. (R. Martin /M. Kelly)
- c. Historic Survey Project: Rick thanked Rachel from the Mattapoisett Commission for her help. He said we need to send a letter of intent to the CPC first and the second step would be to draw up the application with the historic survey being done first and then a town wide survey being done afterwards. Natalie explained the process for CPC funding and that town meeting needs to approve the list in May. A motion was made to have Mike K and Rick M. sign the application It was approved unanimously. (E. Chew/N. Bekemeier)

9. Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. CPC: Liaison has not met
- b. Lagoa Society: Rick said they met two weeks ago and last night and they have officers

10. Commission Member Items:

a. Alyssa said Alyssa Galpin was asking about the urn like pieces in the bushes at the Academy Building

b. Mike said he needs coverage for the schoolhouse on July 28th

11. Public Comment: None

12. Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 @ 6:30pm

13. Motion to adjourn: The motion to adjourn passed. (N. Bekemeier/ B. Luey)

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew
Clerk