

Fairhaven Historical Commission

Minutes

September 2, 2025

Present: Members: Eleanor Chew, Beth Luey, Rick Martin, Alex Kuechler, Nick Jones, Shayna Jones and Natalie Mello (Select Board Liaison)

Absent: Alyssa Botelho (Staff Liaison)

Guests: Brian Messier (on ZOOM)

1. Meeting called to order: by Rick Martin, Chair with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance. The chair also welcomed Nick and Shayna Jones to the commission. Shayna shared they moved here in January she is excited to be a part of the town and commission. Nick shared that he had a lifelong love affair with all things historic and the town has a great history here that he wants to preserve in a responsible way. The chair stated there is one opening on the commission.

2. Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes for August were approved. (A. Kuechler/B. Luey) Vote was 4 yes, zero no's and 2 abstentions. (N. Jones and S. Jones)

3. House Plaque Application: Tim Howe joined us requesting a house plaque for his property at 50 Center St., Fairhaven. The motion was made and seconded that we approve the application for 50 Center St. with the wording that was provided by the applicant. The motion passed unanimously, and the chair signed the form for the sign company. (E.Chew/ A. Kuechler)

4. Financial Report: Motion to approve payment of invoices to Eversource, Sousa Branco Electric and the alarm company for the Academy Building. (B. Luey/ A. Kuechler). The request for funding was increased \$100.00 over the bid for Sousa Branco in case we had to pay the electric fee to the town.

5. Chair's Report: The chair reminded us that there is one vacancy on the Historical Commission. He updated us on the paint for the cannons at Fort Phoenix and a motion was made to appoint Eleanor Chew as our liaison to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) with it passing unanimously (B. Luey/S. Jones). He said he had attended the CPC meeting to discuss the Letter of Interest he had submitted for the Historic Properties Survey. He said he had two extra keys for the firehouses. Alex said he needs the codes for the firehouses and asked if the Militia was getting keys to the fort.

6. Properties Update:

a. Academy Building: Beth noted that she had spoken with the Procurement Consultant for the town and that they are working on securing bids.

b. Fort Phoenix: Eleanor said she removed the memorial, and she spoke about the militia event, the painting and that she and Mike Jenney walked around the fort to see what additional work needed to be done.

c. School House: Rick said he opened the schoolhouse on Sunday. The gutters need to be cleaned and fixed and the building needs to be painted or an adhesive needs to be applied.

d. Firehouses: Alex had nothing new to report

e. Nimrod Cannon: A motion was made that we go to the Select Board to present the new information we have about the condition of the cannon so they can decide what action they want to take. It passed unanimously. (B. Luey/ S. Jones)

8. Discussion/Action Items:

a. CPC Funding Items: Beth said that we need a plan for our properties and that the overseers should work on a list so we have it for the future.

9. Committee Liaison Reports:

a. CPC: No report

b. Lagoa Society: Rick said they had a table at Harbor Fest with tiles, and they were going to participate in the parade for the feast

10. Commission Member Items:

Eleanor said she talked with Ann Carreiro about placing donation boxes in buildings when we have them open. Ann said that was allowed as long as we didn't mention it too much. All monies need to be brought to town hall and deposited in our gift account and any supplies or needs have to be ordered through the town and once the bills were received we would need to approve them for payment.

Rick said Alyssa had been a big help and he was going to miss her while she was gone.

11. Public Comment:

Brian Messier asked about keys for the Protecting Society

12. Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

13. Motion to adjourn: The motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. passed unanimously. (A. Kuechler/ N. Jones)

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew
Clerk