

Minutes

October 7, 2025

Present: Members: Rick Martin (chair), Beth Luey(vice-chair), Eleanor Chew (secretary) and Alex Kuechler

Absent: Nick Jones, Shayna Jones, Alyssa Botelho (Staff Liaison), Natalie Mello (Select Board Liaison)

Guest at town hall: Matt Paulson

ZOOM: Brian Messier and Matt McDonald

1. Meeting called to order: by Rick Martin, Chair with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance at 6:30 p.m.

2. Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes for August were approved. (B. Luey/A. Kuechler)

3. House Plaque Application: No applications were received

4. Financial Report: Motion to approve payment of invoices to Eversource, Sousa Branco Electric, NAPA, keys for the firehouses and the alarm company for the Academy Building in the amount of \$482.02. (B. Luey/ A. Kuechler)

5. Chair's Report: The chair's report will be shared throughout the meeting as topics are presented, however he did share that there are some bitter feelings from the Protecting Society towards the commission due to past history.

6. Properties Update:

a. Academy Building: Beth noted she did a survey of the building with Rick Martin and Kevin Fournier and the bidding process has stalled.

b. Fort Phoenix: Eleanor reported that she was working on a sign for the fort that says owned by the Town of Fairhaven. She said the cannons were painted and looked great, noting James' flexibility with the paint issues. She is also working on a communication plan for the fort so we all know who is doing what there as the Historical Commission, Veteran's Agent and BPW are involved there and that we all need to know what is taking place as one person was upset with having to work around the digging at the fort to share a program.

c. School House: Rick said the gutters need to be cleaned and repaired. Eleanor offered to call Keith Silvia regarding the work needed.

d. Firehouses: Alex reported that the keys were changed and the Spring St. Firehouse needs to be cleaned out and it needs shutters on the side windows. The Washington St. Firehouse has a door hinge that needs to be fixed, and they are asking for extra keys.

e. Nimrod Cannon: Eleanor reported that she and Alex are working on this.

7. Discussion/Action Items:

a. Protecting Society: Matt Paulson, President joined us and apologized for doing the letter to the CPC and asked for permission to continue the process as they submitted a full proposal to the CPC. He asked who they should contact if they need something. Rick thanked him for coming in and for

wanting to work with us. Beth asked with the application how they chose that truck and Matt explained it is old, needs some love and this is the truck they do the rides on at events. Eleanor told Matt if they need something he should reach out to Alex who can contact the chair. She asked who owns the trucks and spoke about the need to work together with respect and cooperation. Matt responded saying they want the same thing. Matt said they have six members and explained the original purpose of their group was to cover items in houses and to help remove items after a fire to protect people's belongings. Brain Messier explained the history of the trucks.

c. Flags at Firehouses: Discussion was about how to more respectfully honor the flags at the firehouses as they are frequently twisted around the poles. The consensus was that Alex K. would assign someone to put up the flags and remove them that night when it was a holiday.

b. CPC/Protecting Society: A motion was made and seconded that we send a letter to the CPC supporting the application for the truck. It passed 3-0-1 with Beth Lury abstaining. (A. Kuechler/ R. Martin)

d. James' paperwork: A motion was made that Rick Martin and/or Eleanor Chew be approved to sign James Edminster's Eagle Scout application. It passed unanimously. (E. Chew/B. Luey)

8. Committee Liaison Reports:

a. CPC: Eleanor said they met and reviewed the Letters of Interest.

b. Lagoa Society: Rick said there was nothing new to report.

c. Militia: Matt McDonald said they were waiting for everyone to get together to plan for 2026 and for the encampment May 15-17, 2026

9. Commission Member Items:

Rick said he was working on consolidating the MACRIS data

10. Public Comment:

Brian Messier thanked us for noticing the issue with the flags, offering to do anything he can to assist.

12. Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

13. Motion to adjourn: The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. (B. Luey/ A. Kuechler/)

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew
Clerk