

Fairhaven Historical Commission
Minutes

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
ROD 2026 JAN 7 PM/788

December 2, 2025

Present: Members: Rick Martin (chair), Beth Luey (vice-chair), Eleanor Chew (secretary), Nick Jones, Alex Kuechler, Doug Brady, Brian Messier (alternate)

ZOOM: Shayna Jones and Natalie Mello (Select Board Liaison)

Guests at Town Hall: G. Bourne Knowles, Matt Paulson

ALL votes were done by roll call vote

1. Meeting called to order: by Rick Martin, Chair with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance at 6:31 p.m. The chair welcomed our two new members: Doug Brady and Brian Messier. A moment of silence was held for Gail Isaksen, a past member who recently passed away.

2. Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes for October were approved. (E. Chew)/ B. Luey). The motion passed 6-0-1 with Doug Brady abstaining

3. House Plaque Application: No applications were received

4. Financial Report: Motion to approve payment of invoices as presented. The motion passed unanimously. (A. Kuechler/N. Jones). The chair reported that our current balance is \$10,131.00 to go until June 30, 2026

5. Chair's Report: The chair reported the vacancy was filled and an alternate was appointed by the Select Board. He is meeting with the CPC on December 10, 2025 to discuss the two proposals. We need a list of needs for the properties. Eleanor said she signed James Edminster's Eagle Scout application. Rick said we have titles of three of the trucks from the Clerk's office. Alex said he has registrations for all the trucks. Engines 1 and 6 are registered to the town and the Protecting Society. Engine 3 to the town and Engine 4 to the town and the fire department.

6. Properties Update:

a. Academy Building: Beth said a show and tell was provided for all that wanted to bid on the work at the building.

b. Fort Phoenix: Eleanor said the wheels were removed from the cannons and there is water coming into the bunker when it rains and she is working on the John Paul Jones cannon removal.

c. School House: Rick said the roof has a small hole in it and it has been fixed at no cost to us. Natalie has the number for Mr. Haworth and will send it to Rick. Doug asked if this building was on the Registry of Historic Deeds? Rick said it is not, with Doug offering to help work on that.

d. Firehouses: Alex reported it has been quiet. They took the truck from Spring St. to the bonfire and Spring St. has a pest control company due to the location of the restaurant near the building

e. Nimrod Cannon: In process

f. John Paul Jones Cannon: In report for the fort.

7. Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Delano Cemetery: Rick said the cemetery is owned by the town and cared for by the BPW. Natalie said the commission has responsibility for certain properties and we could replace the sign with BPW approval. Motion to approach BPW re: their replacing the sign at Delano Cemetery. It passed unanimously . (E. Chew/B. Luey)
- b. Fort Phoenix Flag Replacement: Motion to purchase two high wind flags from Brewer Flag at a cost of \$225.00. It passed unanimously. (E. Chew/A. Kuechler.) Note: Brewer Flag is charging us full price for one and will donate ½ the cost of the second flag
- c. Agreement with the Protecting Society: Motion that we table this until next month. (A.Kuechler/D. Brady). Discussion took place as to whether we should do this tonight as it is a commission decision that can be shared with them after the agreement is drafted. Alex stated it was not fair to them to not be here. Beth said there is a rule set up for spending money and they are not following it and we can't spend money without prior approval and being careful about how we are spending money. After much debate Beth called the question. It was tabled.
- d. CPC/Fire Engine: Eleanor said the CPC needs to know from the Historical Commission who is going to oversee the project for the fire engine repairs. Motion to have the Protecting Society oversee the CPC grant money, should the funding be approved. It passed 6-0-1. (A. Kuechler/ B. Luey)

8. Committee Liaison Reports:

a. CPC: No update

b. Lagoa Society: They are doing tiles at the event December 13th.

9. Commission Member Items: Eleanor reminded people that our phone numbers and emails are for our use only and should not be given out to anyone else without that members prior approval as it this information is confidential. Doug said all this should be funneled through the chair.

10. Public Comment: Matt Paulson spoke about the Protecting Society and how the money was in two different accounts once.

12. Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

13. Motion to adjourn: The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew
Clerk