

Fairhaven Historical Commission  
Minutes

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
RCUD 2026 APR 17 AM 7:32

March 3, 2026

Present: Members: Rick Martin (chair), Beth Luey (vice-chair), Eleanor Chew (secretary), Nick Jones, Alex Kuechler, Doug Brady. Alternate: Nils Isaksen.

ZOOM: Shayna Jones. Brian Messier (Alternate), Natalie Mello (Select Board Liaison). Matt Paulson (Alternate) joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Guests at Town Hall: John Medeiros, Jared Levesque and Joshua Arruda

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.

**2. Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes for February were approved. (A. Kuechler/ B. Luey). The motion passed unanimously

**3. Financial Report:** Motion to approve payment of invoices totaling \$711.03. The motion passed unanimously. (B. Luey/ A. Kuechler). The chair reported that she was scheduled to meet with the Finance Committee and they were recommending a budget for us of \$10,000.00 which is not enough as our utilities are about \$9,000.00. Beth suggested he show them these numbers and Eleanor suggested that he ask them to meet us in the middle. Eleanor then said we should ask for all as if we don't pay the bills someone is still going to have to and also repair the buildings. Doug said we could always ask for a year end approval. Motion made to have the chair go to the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously. (E.Chew/A. Kuechler)

**4. Meeting with John Medeiros:** John asked if we would consider taking over the Rogers School Bell and putting it in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. Questions/ Feedback: What is the condition of the bell? How will it be rung? John said he hadn't seen it as it's in storage. Doug said the Bell Committee had it removed, it weighed about 1,100 pounds and had significant historical value as Paul Revere's grandson worked on it. It would be a difficult project as it would have to be kept on a trailer. Who would be responsible for the trailer, storage and transportation? John responded that's what the commission is for. What does take control of mean? John said own and maintain it. Why does Rogers School want us to take this over? John said they never had control of the bell. Do we need a new Bell Committee? What about the trailer, costs, who to be responsible need to be answered. What is your role John? John can you come up with a detailed plan so we can see what you want us to do so we can vote on this at a future meeting? We have no money to do this. This is great positive feedback we need more details to consider this. A motion was made to have Eleanor and Shayna look into bell usage with John and to come back with information and a plan. The motion passed unanimously (E. Chew/ B. Luey)

**5. Academy Building Project:** Jared Levesque and Joshua Arruda from Full Scope Contracting came to discuss the shingle choice for the Academy Building. Beth provided background on the project and the shingles saying the white cedar shingles are a down grade from what is there saying she mentioned this to Kevin Fournier along with the life span. The question was raised as to whether the building is wrapped and the building commissioner wants vinyl siding due to the insulation quality. It was reported that Kevin said we could not do the red cedar without going back out to bid per town counsel but we could do dipped shingles within the contract. The red cedar would put us over the grant amount. Oil based would give us another 5-7 years instead of undipped shingles. Beth said she would meet with Kevin and Eleanor said Kevin said the dipped was fine without going to bid and Beth asked for an email confirming this.

**6. Chair's Report:** Rick said the Historical Society could use help at their event in April.

**7. Properties Updates:**

- a. Academy Building: No additional report
- b. Fort Phoenix: No report.
- c. School House: No report.
- d. Firehouses: Alex said there was snow up by the doors and the buildings weathered the storms.
- e. Nimrod Cannon: Doug said they are working on it and the town owns the cannon now after an email to Mr. Dawicki on February 26<sup>th</sup> They need a metallurgist to go and check the cannon.
- f. John Paul Jones Cannon: No report

**8. House Plaque Applications:** None received.

**9. Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Gas Line at Spring St. Firehouse: Alex said he spoke with Kevin Fournier who referred him to the TA to find out about insurance and removal costs. Alex said he felt it was best to leave the gas alone. Nils said after so many years of non use the gas company would remove the line. Eleanor asked if there was gas in the building now and the answer was no.
- b. Delano Cemetery: Doug said BPW has the sign and will install it in the spring and they are waiting on the bill
- c. Historic Plaque Grant Opportunities: Doug had a presentation about the option for signs for historic buildings that the Pomeroy Foundation can do.
- d. Eagle Scout Meeting: Rick said we are going in March to meet with them.

**8. Committee Liaison Reports:**

- a. CPC: No report as they have not met.
- b. Lagoa Society: Rick said they are meeting regularly

**9 Commission Member Items:** Brian asked about the mailbox at the Academy Building. Beth said she needed to get the key from Kevin. Beth talked about her play that was scheduled for October 3-4, 2026. Doug said he is doing the application for the schoolhouse.

**10. Public Comment:** No public comment provided

**11. Next regularly scheduled meeting:** Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

**12. Motion to adjourn:** The motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 8:00 p.m. (A. Kuechler/ B. Luey)

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew  
Clerk



**Town of Fairhaven**  
**Historical Commission**  
 Budget Balances

3/3/2026

Name	Total
Historical Commission	\$ 1,667.00
Academy Building	\$ 5,527.01
Fire Museum	\$ (115.98)
Fort Phoenix	\$ 39.28
Old Stone School house on North Street	\$ 50.00
Whitfield - Manjiro House	\$ 1,000.00
Antique Fire Trucks	\$ 431.40
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$ 8,598.71</b>