Fairhaven Historical Commission
Minutes
April 7, 2026

Present: Members: Rick Martin (chair), Beth Luey (vice-chair), Eleanor Chew (secretary), Alex Kuechler, Doug Brady. Alternates: Nils Isaksen and Brian Messier. Natalie Mello (Select Board Liaison)
ZOOM: Noone on ZOOM
Absent: Matt Paulson, Shayna Jones, Nick Jones
Guests at Town Hall: John Medeiros

1. Meeting called to order: by Rick Martin, Chair with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance at 6:32 p.m.

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

3. Financial Report: Motion to approve payment of invoices totaling $645.15. The motion passed unanimously. (E. Chew/ A. Kuechler). The chair reported that the budget without the override was going to make it difficult for us to do business as expenses currently add up to $8,000.00. Eleanor explained the changes to the proposed override saying it was only for certain items and we were not a part of this

4. Chair's Report: Rick said he and Eleanor had met with the Boy Scouts, presenting work that needed to be done and five scouts need projects. Some buildings need to be cleaned and opened and he wants to open the schoolhouse twice a month

5. Properties Updates:

a. Academy Building: Beth shared that the roof leak was repaired so now the hole in the ceiling needs to be fixed. The work on the building with the CPC funds is going well and it needs additional work as the wall was very rotted and there was no flashing so a change order was done. Brian asked which wall had the damage and Beth said the one facing the parking lot. She said the fire escape needs to be redone as it was not properly attached. Nils said there is water getting into the basement due to the location of the gutter. Beth wants to look at ways to use the downstairs. Rick said this is a great historical building and asked how we could use the downstairs with the desks.

A motion was made to appoint Brian and Nils as voting members for tonight's meeting. It passed unanimously. (E. Chew/B.Luey)

b. Fort Phoenix: Eleanor said it was still there and that we need flags. Doug said he went with Nils to see about the electric bill and asked how we were being billed and if that was the Veteran's role to get the flags. Eleanor said no and responded that she would look into the electric bill. It was asked if we could get people to sponsor a flag?

c. School House: Rick said it is still standing and there have not been any leaks

d. Firehouses/ Trucks: Alex said t a piece of wood fell off at Spring St. He ran the engine at the Washington St. station. The truck we usually use can not be driven as it needs brakes and electrical work. Nils asked if there would be a truck at the Homecoming Fair and Alex said yes.

e. Nimrod Cannon: Doug said he had sent emails to Mr. Dawicki on February 26 and March 23 and they are still waiting for a response.

f. John Paul Jones Cannon: Eleanor said that the BPW had not been able to get up there with a vehicle as the ground had been too wet. Josh felt the cannon was safe and didn't need to be removed right now as it was secured with the metal rod ans well as the bracing underneath. Eleanor felt it was safer to leave it there until the fall so no one was tripping over the cement pad it was on.

Doug asked if we had a list of needs and when we could do a letter to the CPC asking what the next step was.

6. House Plaque Applications: None received.

7. Discussion/Action Items:

a. Delano Cemetery: Doug said the sign will be installed soon

b. Rogers School Bell: Eleanor explained what had occurred and the questions that still needed to be answered so we could make a decision. Brian asked to be added onto this subcommittee.

c. Flag Purchase: A motion was made to purchase two flags for Fort Phoenix at a cost of $300.00. It passed unanimously. (E. Chew/B. Messier). Rick said the flagpole was damaged. It was asked why we were paying for the flags and not the Veteran's Agent? It was explained that we are responsible for them but the Veteran's Agent volunteered to take care of hanging them.

d. Repair of Items: We need a list of items and costs of each that need to be repaired for next month. Beth said we could lump smaller items together for a CPC application.

8. Committee Liaison Reports:
a. CPC: Eleanor explained the progress and that final recommendations had been submitted to the Fin Com and Select Board by the chair.

b. Lagoa Society: Rick said they are looking for members for a quorum.

9 Commission Member Items: Rick said the Historical Society needs members. Doug said the Pomeroy Foundation Grant process opened April 6. Alex reminded us he would still do tours of the firehouses

10. Public Comment: No public comment provided

11. Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, May 5. 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

12.Motion to adjourn: We adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew
Clerk