

Fairhaven Historical Commission

Minutes

May 5, 2026

Present: Members: Rick Martin (chair), Beth Luey (vice-chair), Eleanor Chew (secretary), Alex Kuechler, Doug Brady and Nick Jones. Alternates: Nils Isaksen and Brian Messier. Natalie Mello (Select Board Liaison)

ZOOM: Shayna Jones and Matt Paulson

Absent: All were present

Guests at Town Hall: No one

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 April were approved. The motion passed unanimously. (A.Kuechler/ B. Luey))

3. Financial Report: Motion to approve payment of invoices totaling \$1,203.52. The motion passed unanimously. (A. Kuechler/ B. Luey).

4. Chair's Report: Rick said Charlie Walsh who is looking for an Eagle Project reached out to him about painting the schoolhouse. He spoke about upcoming events: The militia event is the weekend of May 16th and the Veteran's Agent is looking for help at Riverside Cemetery May 16th to place flags. Memorial Day parade is May 25th. The historic survey was approved by town meeting. The Historical Society is doing a Photo Angel Project at the COA June 13th.

5. Properties Updates:

a. Academy Building: Beth said the work will be done this week and it will need to be signed off on. The Historical Society is going to donate \$100.00 a month to the gift account. They will buy the cabinet for the bathroom. Eleanor said we still need a soap dispenser, paper towel dispenser and toilet paper holder that meet ADA standards. Beth said the roof is done however the ceiling is a mess. Doug asked when the building was open to the public with Beth saying it was to be determined and hopefully it will be open for Homecoming. She said the town needs to decide how they want to use the building and Natalie said she would ask at the next SB meeting

b. Fort Phoenix: Eleanor said that the electric bill is ours and we have been paying it all along. The bunker door needs to be repaired and Kevin is going to take care of that and it needs to be painted. The light in the bunker needs to be replaced. Nils said a new light is \$74.27 and he would install it at no charge. The wheels have been put back on the cannons. The brush around the bunker needs to be trimmed and Kelly (the Conservation Agent) looked at it and approved the trimming so we could get in there to paint but not the complete removal of brush, the wall needs to be painted and the paint cost is \$520.00 at Ace and the padlocks need to be changed. Rick, Brian and Nils offered to paint and it was suggested that we contact the Sheriff's Department to see if they would do the painting

c. School House: Rick said he was trying to decide when to open the schoolhouse and that he needed more keys. Doug offered to contact the TA to see what the cost of a key card would be as opposed to getting more keys made.

- d. Firehouses/ Trucks: Alex said he opened Spring St. and ran the trucks. Washington St. the front corner needs repairs and the gutters need to be cleaned.
- e. Nimrod Cannon: Doug said this was on hold
- f. John Paul Jones Cannon: Eleanor said she would like to see it braced some more until it is removed.

6. House Plaque Applications: None received.

7. Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Delano Cemetery: Doug said they would have an update next month
- b. Rogers School Bell: Eleanor said discussions were progressing.
- c. Repair of Items: It was asked that people come next month with a list and the cost for each need so we could make final decisions in June. Rick said we have \$7,323.76 left and costs until July 1 of \$1,600.00 for utilities, \$112.00 for pest control and there is a \$1,000.00 item for the Manjiro House leaving us with \$4,611.76. Rick said the cost of the gutters is \$4,000.00. Beth asked if we could do a Sponsor A Flag Program and Eleanor said she would look into this with the TA. A motion was made to purchase the light fixture for the bunker at a cost of \$100.00. It passed unanimously. (B. Luey/A. Kuechler)
- d. Historic Signs: Doug shared that the Pomeroy Foundation's Application process was open for grants. The choices depend on the designation of the building. A motion was made to place sign A on the Academy Building pending the approval of the SB and TA with Doug and Beth to fill out the application. It passed unanimously. (D. Brady/B. Luey) A motion was made to approve the Hometown Heritage Plaque on the Old Stone Schoolhouse pending the approval of the SB and TA with Doug and Beth to do the application. It passed unanimously. (E.Chew/A. Kuechler)
- e. Discover Fairhaven Event- It was decided that we should pass on the event on May 16th.

8. Committee Liaison Reports:

- a. CPC: Eleanor said they are on break as they completed their work and she thanked the commission for the opportunity to serve
- b. Lagoa Society: Rick said they are looking for members for a quorum.

9 Commission Member Items: Rick said that the Tripp School is not on the National register of Historic Places by the Historical Commission

10. Public Comment: No public comment provided

11. Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

12.Motion to adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. It passed unanimously. (A. Kuechler/B. Luey)

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew

Clerk