

Fairhaven Historical Commission

Minutes

August 4, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK  
ROUD 2026 OCT 15 AM8:46

Present: Members: Rick Martin (chair), Beth Luey (vice-chair), Eleanor Chew (secretary), Alex Kuechler, and Doug Brady. Alternates: Nils Isaksen and Brian Messier. Natalie Mello: Select Board Liaison. Nils joined the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

ZOOM: Matt Paulson, Nick Jones and Shayna Jones

Absent: None

Guests at Town Hall: John Medeiros, Roger Galipeau and William Gaudreau

ALL Votes were done by role 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:** A motion was made and seconded that we approve the minutes as amended for July. The motion passed unanimously. (E. Chew/ A. Kuechler) Amendment: Change Natalie's dad to Mr. Charles Mello, PE

**3. Financial Report:** A motion was made and seconded that we approve payment of invoices totaling \$360.00 for this year and encumbered bills from FY 26 totalling \$722.97. The motion passed unanimously. (E. Chew/ B. Luey).

A motion was made and seconded that we move item number 7B up to next on the agenda. It passed unanimously. (B. Luey/A. Kuechler)

**Item 7B- Masonic Lodge Letter:** Beth explained that the Masonic Lodge was looking to submit an application for funding to the CPC and they need a letter stating the building is of historical significance. Mr. Galipeau spoke about the request saying they have been in that building for 125 years and giving a brief history of the lodge. A motion was made to draft a letter re: their CPC request with Beth to draft the letter. It passed unanimously. (R. Martin/ B. Luey)

**4. Chair's Report:** The chair introduced Chris Skelly saying he, Shayna and Beth were overseeing the project. Chris spoke about MACRIS saying they had surveyed various parts of town and many areas have never been surveyed which should make them a priority. Areas that are threatened by development or are ocean side should be done first. He asked if we had a list from the Assessor's Office that determines which areas should be surveyed. Beth said there are many endangered houses that are not in MACRIS and how do we look at properties to focus on in town. Doug asked what the criteria will be to determine the properties we will look into with Chris saying that needs to be determined. Doug asked if we need permission to photograph a house with the answer being no, not as long as it's done from a public way. It is great to do outreach so people are aware. Doug asked if there would be a presentation/ public meeting done about this project. Chris said the town is taking photos due to the contract and a letter can be brought with the person doing the photos to the house. Doug said he wanted to get people excited about the project and asked if we had a list of all properties with plaques. Rick responded saying partially as the last update was done in 2002. Eleanor asked if we were getting permission to post the photos on Face Book asking what if someone says no to a photo. Rick said he doesn't take it. Nick said if it's on a public way it's legal to which Eleanor responded it doesn't make it right. Doug asked what our next steps were with Rick saying we need to narrow down the criteria and asked what we should be expecting with the \$10,000.00 from the CPC grant and what is the pre-arranged stop point. Rick said he would send out the copy of the application.

Rick said we need a plan for next year to do the forms for the CPC funding. The Art Gallery was a success with Susan Darwin conducting it at the Academy Building.

**6. House Plaque Applications:** A motion was made to move #6 up on the agenda. It passed unanimously. (R. Martin/E.Chew) William Gaudreau came back with additional information to discuss his application from last month for 64 Bridge St. Rick said that Nick found an article on Captain Aiken. A motion was made to accept the application from Mr. Gaudreau with the plaque to say: Captain John Aiken, Master Mariner, c. 1850. It passed unanimously. (R. Martin/ E.Chew)

## **5. Properties Updates:**

- a. Academy Building: Beth had nothing new to report
- b. Fort Phoenix: Eleanor said that Vincent Couto has accepted the task of painting the Bunker Wall for his Eagle Scout project and we will need to trim the brush around the wall just prior to that work. Eleanor said she wants to look at accessibility there and do something so that people that can not get into the bunker could still have that experience. Natalie said one concern was that on July 4<sup>th</sup> there was a car parked in the HP space and people couldn't get around it to get up to the fort.
- c. School House: Rick said that Shayna sent out a schedule for people to sign up for dates to open the schoolhouse with six dates from September to November. Beth said she could do any of the dates.
- d. Firehouses/ Trucks: Alex said he checked both and at Spring St. there was stuff dumped there and he cut the grass. Brian said he has the light for Spring St.
- e. John Paul Jones Cannon: Eleanor said they are still checking it.

## **7. Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. Flag Sponsorships: We can not do flag sponsorships. Natalie explained that the Ethics Commission has announced that it could be considered a conflict of interest. We can do a letter for flags, projects etc.
- b. Masonic Lodge Letter: This was discussed earlier in the meeting
- c. Process for Reorganization: Doug asked about reorgnizing saying it was a procedural and we don't know when reappointments will be done. A motion was made that we reorganize and it failed due to the lack of a second. (DB)
- d. Water in Academy Building: Nils reported that there was an inch of water in the basement and it is coming down the walls. A motion was made to have Nils look into methods and costs of fixing the drainage issue and that he co-ordinate with Kevin F and bring back the information to the Historical Commission with Nils, Nick and Brian to work on this. It passed unanimously. (E.Chew/A. Kuechler)
- e. CPC Letters of Intent: Items that we could submit were discussed with Part 2 of the Historic Survey, Academy Building wall and drainage and the Washington St. Fire House be the ones we focus on. Eleanor offered to do the Letters of Intent which need to be submitted by August 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. Committee Liaison Reports:**

- a. CPC: Eleanor said they are meeting later in the month
- b. Lagoa Society: They have not met recently.

**9 Commission Member Items:** Doug said that we can have up to 7 alternates so why don't we ask the SB to publicize this. Nils said he is having the phone lines at town hall moved to the back of the building. Eleanor asked about the funding for the Manjiro House and what the status of that was. Natalie said she shared with the SB the comments from Steve Darwin about the wharf and the SB said they were fine with the process they followed

**10. Public Comment:** John Medeiros handed out a report from the bell project he did in Cuttyhunk in 1998.

**11. Next regularly scheduled meeting:** Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

**12.Motion to adjourn:** A motion was made that we adjourn. It passed unanimously. (B.Luey/A. Kuechler)

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew  
Clerk