

Minutes

September 8, 2026

Present: Members: Rick Martin (chair), Beth Luey (vice-chair), Eleanor Chew (secretary), Alex Kuechler, Nick Jones and Doug Brady. Alternates: Nils Isaksen, Brian Messier and Hailey Hemingway Natalie Mello (Select Board Liaison). Nils joined the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Nick left the meeting at 8:04 p.m. and rejoined via ZOOM at 8:15 p.m.

ZOOM: Matt Paulson, Shayna Jones and Natalie Mello

Absent: None

Guests at Town Hall: Chris Skelly (Consultant for Historic Survey Project)

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: A motion was made and seconded that we approve the minutes for August. The motion passed unanimously. (A. Kuechler/ B. Luey)

3. Public Comment: None

4. Financial Report: A motion was made and seconded that we approve payment of invoices totaling \$422.25 The motion passed unanimously. (E. Chew/A. Kuechler).

5. Chair's Report: Rick introduced Chris Skelly who shared that the project is going great. The photos are going into a database and what do we want to add? He has been taking the Assessor's records and has done up to the year 1900. Chris asked what 20th century resources we have and did we want a copy of the records? Beth asked what the criteria were for determining what was important. Chris responded any architecture, people, associations, buildings, areas of town, street scapes. Nick asked if we should update incorrect dates on houses in the center of town with Chris responding that this can be done in Phase 2. Doug asked if this included lands and parks and Chris said there are no plans to do archaeological sites. Rick said it has been hard to find borders for neighborhoods. We need to add the old airport on Mill Rd. and Gold Bond Powder into this. Nick asked what the time frame was for completion and Chris said the beginning of 2027. Chris also encouraged us to think about areas rather than just individual places where there are a lot of places in one area (ex: West Island). Hailey mentioned Howard Farms on New Boston Road and Brian asked about the shipyards. Eleanor asked if the Oxford School would lose its recognition on the National Register of Historic Places now it is senior housing. Chris responded a building only loses that recognition if the outside is greatly changed or it is demolished.

Rick introduced and welcomed Hailey Hemingway as our new Associate Member. He also said the Old Stone Schoolhouse will be open on September 12 and 26 and we need people to open the Academy Building.

6. House Plaque Applications: None

7. Properties Updates:

a. Academy Building: Rick said Kevin continues to reach out to the builders to repair the roof that was recently done.

b. Fort Phoenix: Eleanor said she and Brian met with Josh Crabb about the parking lot and the lot is owned by the state and not the town. Rick said the lights are huge there and Nils asked if we could put them on

timers. Natalie said the lights are there for safety and need to be on. Nils offered to look at other lights that may not be as bright or costly to operate. Brian reminded us that we lost 33% of our budget and Alex asked if the lights were on a time or if they were sensor based.

c. School House: Rick said it will be open Saturday.

d. Firehouses/ Trucks: Alex said the junk behind the Spring St. station was removed. Rick asked if there was need for the alarm at Washington St and Alex said there is no alarm there but there is one in Spring St. Eleanor asked how much of the building had been cleaned with Brian saying there are lots of things that could go up on the walls. Brian said he would like to do a virtual tour of the upstairs.

e. Nimrod Cannon: Doug said that he did a Letter of Interest to the CPC.

f. John Paul Jones Cannon: Eleanor said she reached out to Voke about repairing the base.

8. Discussion/Action Items:

a. Election/Reorganization: This is on hold and Natalie said the SB has a list of people up for consideration. Doug clarified his error in understanding of this process saying the reorganization of elected boards is automatic and appointed boards are done after SB re-appointments.

b. Academy Building Drainage Issue: Nils said he spoke with the Building Inspector who recommended that we get the drains and water from the downspouts away from the building. A motion was made that we purchase the spouts and elbows needed for this at a cost of \$100.00 maximum. The motion passed unanimously. (B. Luey/ A. Kuechler)

c. CPC Nimrod Cannon Application: Doug read the letter he wrote and Eleanor said she asked for this to be on the agenda as she felt this should go through the same process as the other pre-applications. Doug said someone was coming to give us an estimate for the cost of the work. Beth said we need to look at what is most likely to be funded. A motion was made that we support the CPC Application for the Nimrod Cannon by the Historical Commission. The motion passed unanimously.(E. Chew/A. Kuechler)

d. Cement Orbs: Rick shared that Nils contacted him regarding the cement orbs that were outside at the Academy Building as they had been removed. Rick said he reached out to the Green Lanterns and has not received an answer from them about this. Discussion ensued as to how to address this. Nils felt they should come back and Beth asked if they were safe where they were moved to with Nils saying no. Brian said they were the property of the town and they needed to be returned. A motion was made that the Historical Commission take back the orbs and return them to the Academy Building. The motion passed 5-2. (D. Brady/A. Kuechler). Natalie asked why we were saying the Green Lanterns and Brian said that was not a good precedent to set. Rick will reach out to Bob Hannon to discuss this.

e. Letter for Masonic Lodge: A motion was made to approve the letter. It passed 6-0 . (A. Kuechler/B.Luey) (The vote was 6-0 as Nick had left the meeting temporarily, not voting)

f. Academy Building Usage: Beth said she wants to meet with the TA to discuss this. Eleanor asked if we have a specific use for the building. Rick said we could make it a display and put in desks for the Historical Commission and the Historical Society. Beth said the society is working on a display with the Wampanoag Tribe. Natalie said she liked this idea and Nils asked if it could be used for fire department photos. Beth said displays should be done on a rotating basis. The Historical Society would also like to do a video tour of the building.

g. OSRC: Eleanor said the OSRC was looking for information on what buildings in town are on the National Register of Historic Places. Town Hall, Library, High School, Academy Building, Fort Phoenix, Rogers School and the HHH monument.

h. Date for Community Presentation: Rick will get dates from cable and bring those dates to the next meeting.

8. Committee Liaison Reports:

a. CPC: Eleanor said they met and approved the final application

b. Lagoa Society: They have not met recently.

9 Commission Member Items: Doug mentioned the associates and said it would be hard to do all the work on the buildings without them.

10. Public Comment: None

11. Next regularly scheduled meeting: A motion was made that we meet on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. It passed unanimously (E. Chew/ B. Luey). (the meeting was changed to the second week due to the SB meeting for reappointments on the 6th as so many people needed to be there.

12.Motion to adjourn: A motion was made that we adjourn at 8:28 p.m.. It passed unanimously. (A. Kuechler/ E. Chew)

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew
Clerk