

Fairhaven Historical Commission

Minutes

January 6, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
ROUD 2026 MAR 2 AM 11:35

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

ZOOM: Shayna Jones

Guests at Town Hall: None that spoke

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 6:01 p.m. The chair welcomed our two new alternates: Matt Paulson and Nils Isaksen. He also welcomed Keith Hickey, Town Administrator.

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

3. Meeting with Mr. Hickey, Town Administrator: Mr. Hickey thanked us for the invitation. He shared that he had met with members of the Historical Commission, Protecting Society and the Militia to discuss needs and issues. Natalie asked if he could state what the purpose of the Historical Commission was. He said that some members of the commission had a clearer idea and he would defer to them but that not every building was under the purview of the commission. Rick responded saying it is antiques and in 2015 the chair stated it was the fort, school house, Academy Building, fire houses and the Taber Wall. In 2019 the fire trucks were added. Mr. Hickey said that at the meeting it was agreed that the overages for the truck repairs would be reimbursed by the Protecting Society. Mr. Hickey said we should work together on the shortfall and he would ask Ann C. to send Rick a copy of the budget. Doug asked who from the commission was at the meeting yesterday with Mr. Hickey saying he initiated the meeting to talk about who is responsible for what among the three groups and that we were off to a good start on communicating with one another.

The chair then read the Call To The Meeting as he skipped over that earlier

4. Financial Report: Motion to approve payment of invoices as presented. The motion passed unanimously. (E. C hew/A. Kuechler). The chair reported that total of the bills being approves was \$685.11. The motion passed unanimously

5. Chair's Report: Rick asked that each person responsible for oversight of a property send the clerk a list of ongoing/long-term needs so we can see and prioritize repairs. He congratulated James Edminster on his Eagle Scout approval. He cancelled the fire house tours as he did not post it in advance as a meeting and anyone wanting to see the building can set up a time with someone on the board from the Protecting Society. He explained that we need to keep it 2 members with a representative so we do not conflict with open meeting laws. The Rogers School was approved for the National Register of Historic Places. Doug said they will receive a bronze plaque for the building

6. Properties Update:

a. Academy Building: Beth said the town accepted a bid and there are issues with details going forward and she is concerned with the gas and electric bills while the work is being done.

b. Fort Phoenix: No update presented

c. School House: Rick said he is waiting for Mr. Haworth to call with a bid. The schoolhouse will be opened again in the spring

d. Firehouses: Alex reported they took the truck from Washington Street out twice with Santa. The sills need work. Doug asked if we apply for CPC funds and Beth said yes and that is why she asked for a list of building needs so we could apply for more funding in the future.

e. Nimrod Cannon: In process

f. John Paul Jones Cannon: Rick asked who roped off the cannon with Eleanor saying BPW had done it to keep people away from the cannon.

7. Discussion/Action Items:

a. Delano Cemetery: Eleanor provided the update from Josh Crabb at the BPW. Motion to have Doug and Brian work on the sign and to come back with information. (E. Chew/A. Kuechler). It passed unanimously

b. Restatement of Financial Procedures: Rick read the motions from the February 2025 meeting clarifying the spending of money.

c. Budgets: We talked about requested versus approved budgets. Last year we requested \$16,000 and received \$15,200.00. Beth will work with Ann Carreiro to come up with a list of fixed expenses so we can plan in the future. Brian asked if budget line items were included and Natalie explained it was part of the minutes

d. Annual Report: A motion was made to accept the annual report. (B. Luey/A, Kuechler). It passed unanimously. Brian asked if we include the budget in this and the answer was no.

e. Schoolhouse: In follow up to Doug's question last month a motion was made to have Doug and Beth work on an application for consideration by the National Register of Historic Places. (A. Kuechler/ R.Martin) It passed unanimously

8. Committee Liaison Reports:

a. CPC: Eleanor said they met with applicants in December. In January they hope to have actual budget numbers.

b. Lagoa Society: Rick said they are getting off the ground.

9. Commission Member Items: Doug asked if we could correct the minutes from the February 2025 minutes. Eleanor offered to check with the town clerk. A motion was made to table this until next month. (E. Chew/ B. Luey). After continued discussion it was tabled with a unanimous vote

10. Public Comment: No public comment provided

12. Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

13. Motion to adjourn: The motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:30 p.m. (B. Luey/A. Kuechler)

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Chew

Clerk