

Fairhaven Historical Commission
Minutes
December 6, 2023

Present: Wayne Oliveira, Michael Kelly, Rick Martin, Nate Bekemeier, Keith Silvia (Selectboard Liaison)

Absent: MJ Carvalho, Natalie Mello (at CPC Meeting) Cam Durant (Staff Liaison)

Meeting called to order 6:40 pm.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from November 1, 2023 (M.Kelly 2nd R.Martin) Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Given by Chair. See attached Budget Balance Sheet for update of Commission budget balances.

MOTION to accept: R.Martin 2nd M.Kelly PASSED

Commission Bills: Commissioners signed several bills. Eversource, Profishant, Inc. Tom's Home Improvement, Southeastern Fire Equip. Total \$1,830.86 MOTION to pay: M.Kelly 2nd R.Martin PASSED

Chair report: Chair read the letter from the Attorney General's Office regarding the results of an Open Meeting Law violation filed by Karen Vilandry in August 2023

Also reported on a meeting with the TA, Vice-Chair and Chair for a reformatting of our Agenda to make it more specific and detailed.

Properties update:

Academy Building: RP Valois from Dartmouth reports the custom front door is delayed with expected delivery in late December.

Furnace cleaning and preventive maintenance is scheduled for December 7 by NB Gas Company

Roof leak has been addressed and repaired by Tom's Home Improvement who did the Bell Tower roofing repair last year.

Fire Extinguishers have been installed throughout the building as required by the building code.

Fire Museum:

- **Washington Street – Michael Kelly-** Building has been cleaned out of needless debris and the fire truck has returned from Voc-Tech after engine repair.
- **Spring Street – Wayne Oliveira -** Cleaning and display work continues. Items will be cleaned and cataloged for display.

Fort Phoenix: Natalie Mello - Absent from tonight meeting to attend the CPC meeting. New US Flag has been replaced at the main flag pole.

Old Stone Schoolhouse: Michael Kelly – Tours of the schoolhouse have been completed for the year. 237 people toured the building during various Saturday openings. Michael will be making some repairs to the wooden shutters that are damaged or rotted.

Discussion/Action items:

Discussion on proposed sign and placement at Cooke Park: Commission members and Ms. Karen Vilandry discussed possible edits to the proposed sign. Members felt the wording that we had chosen previously was sufficient and the sail and lettering font should remain the same as all of the other similar historical signs throughout town. After Commission discussion and comments from the public a motion was made to make a couple of minor edits and approving the following wording:

Cooke Memorial Park

(add a bold line between)

Historic Oxford Village Burial Hill

Final resting place for many of Fairhaven's earliest settlers in marked and unmarked graves

Established mid to late 1600's (took out the word "in the")

Motion M.Kelly 2nd R.Martin passed unanimously.

Sign will be placed along Pilgrim Ave, facing south, 8' back from the curb in the middle of the park frontage line.

Social media update: Michael Kelly has been working on increasing our presence of Facebook and Instagram and we plan on cleaning up our Town Website of old information.

Public Access to our 2 Firehouses: Over the winter months we would like to clean up and prepare the displays at the Spring Street and Washington Street Firehouses and make them presentable for public access as we are doing with the Old Stone Schoolhouse. Motion by M.Kelly to move forward with this endeavor. 2nd R.Martin Passed Unanimous

Bell Committee Update: Received an update by Doug Brady of the Bell Committee on the status of the Revere Bell display structure that is being constructed at Voc-Tech. We hope to have it completed by late Spring and hopefully work would continue on the foundation. Mr. Brady will keep us updated on the progress.

Committee Reports:

- Community Preservation Committee: Natalie Mello absent – no report
- Lagoa Friendship Committee: MJ Carvalho absent - No report

Commission Member Items: None

Public Comment: None

Next meeting date will be **January 3, 2024**

Motion to adjourn at 8:05pm M.Kelly 2nd R.Martin Passed Unanimous



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

Historical Commission

Budget Balances

Name	Total
Historical Commission	\$ 390.44
Academy Building	\$ 4,586.65
Fire Museum	\$ 893.90
Fort Phoenix	\$ 2,820.00
Old Stone School house on North Street	\$ 800.00
Manjiro House	\$ 3,000.00
Antique Fire Trucks	\$ 1,200.00
Grand total	<hr/> \$ 13,690.99

Balance as of 12/5/2023