



Fairhaven Historical Commission

February 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman David Despres, Debra Charpentier, Charles Cromwell, Vicki Paquette, Anne Kakley, Gerry Rooney and Michael Sylvia.

Chairman Despres called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Academy Building classroom.

MINUTES

The Commission approved the minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting as read by Ms. Kakley.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Commission approved the Financial Report as read by the Chairman.

CAPTAIN WHITFIELD HOUSE

The Commission met with Mr. Sylvia and Mr. Rooney regarding the Captain Whitfield House at 11 Cherry Street, home of the Manjiro-Whitfield Friendship Society. Mr. Rooney said that it is the goal of the Friendship Society to restore a carriage house at the rear of the Captain Whitfield House and make it into a cultural center. 11 Cherry Street belongs to the Town, Mr. Rooney said, and it was once the home of Manjiro Nakahama, the first Japanese man to live in the United States. Mr. Sylvia explained that the Friendship Society Board of Directors was hoping to obtain Community Preservation Funding to help create the carriage house cultural center. According to Mr. Sylvia and Mr. Rooney, they were told by CPC director Bill Roth that it would bolster their case for CPC funding if they could get the building onto the National Register of Historical Places or if they could get the Historical Commission to declare the building a historical place of significance for the Town of Fairhaven.

Discussion ensued regarding procedure and whether or not the Town-owned building would be eligible for CPC funds. Mr. Despres said that the fire museums are Town-owned and they received CPC funding. He said 11 Cherry Street is a public building and there should not be an issue. Just the same, Mr. Despres made a motion to declare the Captain Whitfield House at 11 Cherry Street a building of historical significance for the Town of Fairhaven. Mr. Cromwell seconded. Vote was unanimous from the Commission.

Mr. Rooney asked if anything was going on at the Old Stone Schoolhouse. He said that he had recently taken visitors there and there was furniture in the entranceway of the building. The Commission determined that the furniture must be from the Office of Tourism. Mr. Richard will

be contacted regarding the furniture. While Mr. Rooney was present, Mr. Despres took the opportunity to thank him for his work in planting the cherry trees that were a gift from Dr. Hinohara to Fairhaven.

ACADEMY BUILDING

Mr. Despres reported that he had sent a letter to School Superintendent Robert Baldwin regarding parking in the high school lot to be designated for the Office of Tourism. He read the letter into record. (See Attachment A).

Mr. Despres also reported that Don Wunschel had taken the Academy Building door off its hinges and repaired it so it would close properly. Mr. Cromwell recommended the addition of weather stripping to the door. He also pointed out at the banister to the second floor of the Academy Building was detached from the wall and would need to be repaired. Mr. Wunschel was scheduled to come out and assess the repair on the banister.

A motion-detecting sensor has been installed by the Tourism Director at the Academy Building.

FIRE MUSEUM

There was nothing new to report.

FORT PHOENIX

There was nothing new to report.

OLD STONE SCHOOLHOUSE

There was nothing new to report.

FY14 BUDGET

Mr. Despres said that there was a meeting scheduled between the Historical Commission and the Finance Committee to discuss its FY14 requested budget. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, at 7:10 p.m. He read a letter from John Roderiques, Finance Committee chairman, asking for the Historical Commission to break down its requests by line items.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Charpentier reported that Victor Oliveira did not want to do the house plaques anymore. Discussion ensued regarding where the Commission could get the signs done in the future for a reasonable cost. Ms. Kakley said that she or her husband may be interested, but would have to look into what was involved.
- The Commission signed bills totaling \$886.58.

HOUSE PLAQUE APPLICATION

Ms. Charpentier presented an application for a house plaque for Ted and Barbara Lorentzen at 49 Union Street. The plaque will read “Dr. George O. Irish House, 1908”. Ms. Charpentier said that the building’s construction was even mentioned in a 1908 newspaper.

Mr. Despres motioned to accept the house plaque application for 49 Union Street as described by Ms. Charpentier. Mr. Cromwell seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The Commission adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully,

Anne Kakley

(Minutes approved 3/13/2013)

Attachment A

FAIRHAVEN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Dr. Robert N. Baldwin
Superintendent of Schools
128 Washington Street 02719

January 11, 2013

Dear Dr. Baldwin;

It has been brought to the attention of the Historical Commission that there is a lack of parking spots at the Academy Building for users of the Visitors Center. We would appreciate your cooperation in allowing us to reserve the four spaces closest to the building for users of the Visitors Center. I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,



David Despres
Chairman
Fairhaven Historical Commission
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Fairhaven Massachusetts 02719
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cc

Christopher Richards, Director of Tourism
Office of the Selectmen

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