



Fairhaven Historical Commission

June 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman David Despres, Anne Kakley, Cynthia McNaughten, Wayne Oliveira, Chuck Cromwell and John Medeiros.

Chairman Despres called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Academy Building classroom.

POSTCARDS

Mr. Despres passed around postcards of 77 Main Street (“Taber Variety”) and “Minuteman Lane” (now the Old Fort Road at Fort Phoenix). See Attachment A.

MINUTES

Mr. Despres motioned to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2013 meeting. Mr. Cromwell seconded. It was so voted unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

ALL SECURITY

Mr. Despres met with All Security two weeks ago. He said that individuals from the Historical Society, Historical Commission (including Mr. Despres and Mr. Cromwell), Chris Richard and Ann Richard (of the Farmer’s Market) have separate passcodes that will make the building more secure through improved accountability. The old passcode/old key is gone and there will now be a list of activity of who enters and leaves the Academy Building.

ARBORVITAE

The heavy snow of the previous winter damaged the arborvitae surrounding the Academy Building, said Mr. Despres. He asked the Commission if the arborvitae should be trimmed down heavily – possibly down to 5 or 6 feet – to allow them to recover and fill in. Discussion ensued, regarding the aesthetic impact of trimming the bushes and how it would impact parking signs. Mr. Medeiros asked if that responsibility fell to the Historical Commission or the School Department. Mr. Despres said that he did not think the School Department maintained the arborvitae. Mr. Medeiros said that parking signs were in the process of being commissioned to designate parking in the lot for the Visitor’s Center. Mr. Medeiros said that the School

Department had still not notified its staff of any parking restrictions in the High School side lot. A letter was sent to Superintendent Robert Baldwin and there was no response.

Mr. Despres asked the Commission if it was supportive of expending \$500 to trim the arborvitae. The Commission was supportive. Mr. Despres motioned to hire Nick's Landscaping to cut the arborvitae at six feet straight across and install parking signs, when available. Mr. Cromwell seconded. Vote by the Commission was unanimous.

ACADEMY BUILDING LEAK

Mr. Despres said that a small leak around the chimney portion of the Academy Building roof was repaired for \$250.

FIRE MUSEUM

Mr. Oliveira said that he would like to see more interior work completed at the Fire Museum in the upcoming year, including electrical work. About \$400 remained in the FY13 budget for the Fire Museum. Discussion ensued regarding the work required. Mr. Oliveira listed a need for a ceiling fixture, light switches and outlets, and a wall-mounted conduit. Mr. Despres said that he could put in a work request with the Town electrician.

Mr. Cromwell said that there was still a grill on the west side of the Fire Museum. He asked how much of the property the Town owned on that side of the building – Mr. Despres answered that it was about a foot. It was determined that the grill was likely encroaching on the Town land and it was a fire hazard regardless with its close proximity to the Fire Museum. Mr. Oliveira said that he would go by on duty with the Fire Department the next day and look into the matter.

FORT PHOENIX

Mr. Cromwell said that the graffiti at Fort Phoenix was still an issue because the graffiti location was making clean up difficult. Mr. Cromwell added that he would like to see Nick Oliveira clean out the bushes at the Fort. Mr. Cromwell said that new paint was needed on the guns and carriages. Mr. Oliveira said that he had older boy scouts looking for a community project, and they might be able to help.

OLD STONE SCHOOLHOUSE

There was nothing new to report.

TREE PLANTING

Mr. Despres noted that the 2012 Annual Town Report included an entry from the Tree Warden, who said that no trees had been planted in 2012. Mr. Despres said that it was disappointing to hear that trees were not being replaced. Discussion ensued on the Historical Commission's role in getting involved in tree replacement. Ms. McNaughten said that Tree Warden Tony Medeiros did not seem to have the staff or budget needed for proper upkeep of Town trees. She also noted

that there had once been a purple beech tree on the Unitarian Church grounds that had been moved and tended to by Gary Staffon. No one knew what had happened to that tree, which was from the Coe Estate.

Mr. Despres said that he would try to invite Ann Richard of the Sustainability Committee to the next Historical Commission meeting to discuss the matter of tree replacement in Town.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Despres motioned to sign bills, totaling \$344.01. Ms. Kakley seconded. Vote was unanimous.
- The next meeting of the Historical Commission will be July 3, 2013.

Mr. Medeiros motioned to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Mr. Oliveira seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Kakley

(Minutes approved 7/3/2013)