

FAIRHAVEN HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
7PM. WED MAY 3, 2017  
FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING ROOM  
146 WASHINGTON STREET

Attending: Dave Despres, Gary Lavalette, Deb Charpentier, Wayne Oliveira, Vicki Paquette, Planning Board member Rene Fleurent, Bell Committee member Nils Isaksen.

Previous minutes: read by Mr. Despres and accepted on a motion by Mr. Oliveira/second Ms. Paquette.

Financial report: read by Mr. Despres and accepted on a motion by Mr. Lavalette/Ms. Paquette.

Academy Building report: Mr. Despres advised the Commission that the electrical repairs are still awaiting the Town electrician. Mr. Despres will attend the Town Meeting on May 6 to speak about the CPC accessibility project if needed.

Fire Museum report: Mr. Wunschel provided the low estimate for the window repairs. Mr. Despres will inform the contractor.

Fort Phoenix report: Ms. Charpentier reported that she has been in communication with Clearwater regarding the parapet project. The architect will be contacting a number of local contractors who may be interested in the project. Mr. Despres and Mr. Lavalette have evaluated the field cannon wheels. Mr. Lavalette is undertaking fiberglass repairs to one wheel but both are in agreement that the original wheels are all significantly compromised. Replacement wheels are estimated to cost up to \$1,000 per pair.

Old Stone School report: Mr. Despres reported that he has raked leaves and edged along both sides of the fence as well as the cherry trees. Most of the mulch is in place, including around the Cooke Park trees edged by Mr. Lavalette. The project will be completed weather permitting.

House Plaques/Historical markers: Ms. Charpentier presented research for 355 Sconticut Rd.. The structure was built circa 1846 as District school 14. Provided that Ms. Charpentier is able to verify the information, the HC voted to approve the plaque on a motion by Mr. Despres/Ms. Paquette.

Demo Delay bylaw: Ms. Nicole Benjamin-Ma, an historic preservation planner working on the Master Plan, provided an outline on DD bylaws. A discussion ensued involving topics including: utilizing a property list vs. a specific date, what demo delay bylaws do, what membership should look like, owner options, and various criteria of preferably preserved structures.

Colonial Club archives: Ms. Charpentier informed the HC that various archives and historical records of the Colonial Club have been turned over to the Millicent Library.

Oxford School project support letter: Mr. Despres read a proposed letter to be sent to the MHC regarding support for the contractor to receive historic tax credits for the project. The HC voted to send the letter on a motion by Mr. Despres/Mr. Lavalette. (see attached)

Next meeting: Wed. June 7, 2017, 7pm FFD meeting room.

RECEIVED  
2017 MAY 30 PM 12:24  
TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Ms. Brona Simon  
State Historical Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Blvd.  
Boston Ma. 02125

May 3, 2017

RE: Stratford Group-Historical Tax Credit Application for Oxford School.

Dear Ms. Simon,

The Fairhaven Historical Commission voted on May 3, 2017 to once again support the application, by Stratford Capital Group, for Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

The project involves the rehabilitation of the historic Oxford School located in the north end of Fairhaven. The 1896 structure, the first multi-classroom elementary school built with tax dollars in Fairhaven, was built to educate the children of the growing population of mill working families that had settled in the north end of Fairhaven. These workers travelled over the recently built Coggeshall Street Bridge to work at the many mills dotting the shores of nearby New Bedford. This much loved school educated the children of North Fairhaven for over a century. The school's hilltop location at the intersections of Main Street, Adams Street, and Howland Road serves as a visual anchor to this historic neighborhood.

The Commission notes your concerns regarding some details of the rehabilitation plan and we urge the architects and contractors to preserve more of the interior historic materials. The Commission does not agree, however, that the 1951 addition is worth retaining. The structure has little, if any, historic significance. The Commission believes it to be in poor condition, and retaining it would be a detriment to the rehabilitation of the project as a whole.

The Commission respectfully urges you to consider supporting this application and please feel free to contact the Chair if you should have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

David Despres  
Chair.  
Fairhaven Historical Commission  
40 Center Street  
Fairhaven Ma. 02719  
[ddes51959@aol.com](mailto:ddes51959@aol.com)  
508-999-6057

*DRAFT*

cc. Board of Selectmen  
Rita Walsh, Senior Preservation Planner VHB