

HARVARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

13 AYER ROAD • HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS 01451



The Harvard Historical Commission is chartered "...to preserve and protect the historic assets of Harvard, its buildings, structures, places, sites, and surrounding settings of historical or architectural significance."

Those wishing to record any or all of the meeting must, prior to the meeting's start, alert the chair to such and the chair will announce the fact, in accordance with The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

Following are the **minutes** for the regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission, at Hildreth House, on Wednesday, **September 11, 2019** at 7pm. Submitted by George Triantaris, Secretary.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

David Vannicola (Vice Chair)
George Triantaris (Secretary)
Steve Nizus
Emanuel Lindo
Richard Cabelus

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

Pam Marston (Chair)

AUDIENCE: Willie Wickman, Mamie Wytrwal, Mark Mikitarian (all for Fivesparks)

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:01

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved with Pam Marston voting by telephone.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Fivesparks, 7 Fairbank Street, Willie Wickman, proposed new sign

Public Hearing opened by unanimous vote at 7:04

Presentation of application:

Willie Wickman presented on behalf of Fivesparks

Reviewed application to erect a new sign in front of the old library at 7 Fairbank Street. Reviewed design and proposed placement of the sign.

Public comments in favor:

Pat Jennings, 11 Fairbank

Submitted a letter endorsing the sign.

Public comments against:

None

Public Hearing closed by unanimous vote at 7:09

Commissioners' Discussion and Vote

The commissioners had little comment on the sign, approving the design and the size. The application was approved by unanimous vote.

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED: (None)

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NEW APPLICATIONS:

1 Still River Road, Tim Kilhart: Sidewalk project in town center

The application made by Timothy Kilhart on behalf of the Town of Harvard with regard to upgrading existing sidewalks and installing new sidewalks in the town center was reviewed. In addition to the fact that a new sidewalk is considered a new structure under the HCC Bylaw, it was pointed out that the project will have a considerable impact on the town common and was likely to be of public interest, arguing that the change is substantial. By unanimous vote it was determined that the application was substantial and would require a public hearing.

ON-GOING APPLICATIONS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hildreth House addition information: subcommittee and building committee meetings are ongoing for the phase 2 project.

HHC to provide informal design advice if desired and in advance of an application.

2. All boards meeting Sept 18, 2019. HHC needs a representative.

Pam will attend.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Demolition Delay By-Law and related issues including possible survey of historical properties and approaches used by other towns (GT)

George reviewed a list of points to consider with regard to the Demolition Delay Bylaw and noted that a number of towns are currently working on historic surveys, evaluating the time period of the delay (at least one town recently changed from 6 months to 18 months), considering other ways to stop demolition (e.g. single house district in Hopkinton), and working with large property owners to restrict development in a way that protects the historic structures. Some of these ideas could be implemented in Harvard. Seeking federal register of historic places status was also discussed as well as expanding the historic districts in town. George to consult with Tom Skelly to gather more data. It was also discovered the HHC commissioned a comprehensive historic survey in 1993 and 1994. Claire Dempsey did the work. A copy now resides in the library. This could be updated and indexed for current use and possibly be put on the website. George to pursue whether it exists in electronic form. There is also a binder with applications for National Register status for two districts in Harvard and two structures that was undertaken (successfully) by the same group. Further review of these resources is needed.

2. Discussion on non-applicable applications (GT)

Richard to check on Open Meeting Law question.

3. Discussion on Herb House maintenance (ML)

Manny will contact HHS to learn whether plans for the building exist. Ongoing conversation about how to ensure the structure is preserved and does not deteriorate and also as to possible uses for the building.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from an abutter endorsing the Fivesparks sign.

Pat Jennings sent a letter endorsing the new sign at Fivesparks since she could not be at the meeting. This was noted during the public hearing.

2. Letter from Freedom's Way celebration regarding the Centennial of the 19th Amendment. Other towns are planning celebrations of this centennial during the year.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (DV)

CPC (ML)

1. CPC application submitted to CPC for completion monies for Bromfield Wall

2. Invitation for HHC member to inform CPC of projects planned by the commission over the next few years in

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order for CPC to budget properly over time. Sept 25th meeting.

Cemetery Commission

Demolition Delay Committee (GT) See above

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Next meeting will be held on October 9 at 6 pm

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion to adjourn made and passed with unanimous vote.

7:42