

# 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** of a public hearing and the regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission, at Hildreth House, on **Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 6 pm**. Submitted by George Triantaris, Secretary.

## MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

David Vannicola (Vice Chair)  
George Triantaris (Secretary)  
Steve Nigzus  
Richard Cabelus

## MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

Pam Marston (Chair)  
Emanuel Lindo (for most of meeting see below)

**AUDIENCE:** Presenters and public listed below. Note TEC Engineer Jonathan Rockwell accompanied Tim Kilhart

## TOPICS:

## CALL TO ORDER:

**6:00 pm**

## REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

## PUBLIC HEARING:

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

#### Public Hearing opened by unanimous vote at 6:02

It was pointed out by several commissioners that the HHC was being asked to vote on the design elements of the plan rather than whether sidewalks should be installed or where. The charge of the Commission was also reviewed ~ to preserve and protect the historical assets of Harvard.

#### Presentation of application:

#### Timothy Kilhart on behalf of the DPW and the Town of Harvard

Reviewed application and plan to upgrade existing and install new sidewalks in the town center. Curbing will be granite and the sidewalks will be cement. The sidewalks will be 5 feet wide plus curbing which will be 6 inches high. The fire and police chiefs had input into the placement of the sidewalks and the design will make them ADA compliant. The town applied for a MASS DOT Complete Streets Program grant of \$370,000 for this project which was approved. Work must be completed by June 30, 2020. Tim stated that cement would be more durable than asphalt.

#### Public comments in favor:

None

#### Public comments against:

#### Peter Warren

Objected to the process undertaken by the town for this project (no public hearings for the planning) and asked why the Select Board members did not attend this meeting to defend the plan.

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## **Carlene Phillips**

Asked whether the project would extend to Ayer Road.

## **Al Combs, Oak Hill Road**

Felt this project would adversely affect the commercial viability of the general store.

## **Scott Hayward, Elm Street**

Objected the sidewalks being constructed of concrete rather than asphalt – worried about reflected light from the concrete.

## **Carlene Phillips**

Asked whether the scenic byways bylaw would prevent the project.

## **Peter Warren**

Asked whether only a part of the project could be undertaken (no).

## **Jack Spiro**

Asked whether the sidewalks would be used.

## **John Martin**

Said that the sidewalk in front of his house near the old library was in a terrible state of repair and asked if it would be repaired as part of this project (no).

## **Carlene Phillips**

Urged commission to reject the plan to protect the integrity of the town center.

## **Scott Hayward**

Favored an expansion of the HHC oversight of the town center.

There was continued debate over the location of the sidewalks – opposition was focused on the sidewalk that will be in front of the general store – and the aesthetic impact of the project. Others argued that the center had to fulfill its function as a commercial center. Further discussion of the role of the HHC and a statement from the commission that it was not consulted as to whether this project should be pursued from the perspective of protecting and preserving the town center.

## **Shawn McCollin, 16 Ayer Road**

Was in favor if the project improved safety, especially for children.

## **Public Participation portion of meeting closed**

## **Public Hearing closed by unanimous vote at 6:42**

## **Commissioners' Discussion and Vote**

Some commissioners expressed the view that they were not sure exactly where the sidewalks would be placed and wanted to visit the site to better understand the plan. Others were concerned that the plan cannot be altered and must be accepted as is (in order to qualify for the grant). It was decided by a vote of 3 (Dave, George and Richard) to 1 (Steve) that the matter would be considered at the next meeting allowing time for further consideration and a site visit.

## **NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:**

98 Shaker Road, Shaker Village, Debbie Murray: replace existing deck in kind ~ not applicable

## **NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:**

16 Ayer Road, Sandra Femino and Shawn McCollin, new barn door

Shawn and Sandra presented their application for a new barn door that would be more energy efficient and would allow light into the building. They cited examples of similar door designs in town. The material would be wood and would match in color to existing door and shutters. It was voted unanimously that the change in design is substantial and will require a public hearing. Homeowners were asked to return with a specific design for the door.

## **ON-GOING APPLICATIONS: none**

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## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Town clerk asking for HHC endorsement of CPC application to preserve town records for FY 2021  
Endorsed by unanimous vote.
  2. Peter Warren asking for HHC endorsement of CPC application to preserve fire department records for FY 2021  
Endorsed by unanimous vote
- Emanuel Lindo arrived at this point  
It was discussed among the commissioners that if HHC is asked for its priorities for CPC funding we would recommend the town records first (unless another source of funding can be found for that project), the stonewall project second, and the fire department records third. This was pointed out to Mr. Warren.

## ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. All boards meeting Sept 18, 2019, report from Pam, postponed
2. Discussion on non-applicable applications (GT)  
Richard checked on Open Meeting Law question and reported that only one person should be delegated to make these decisions.
3. Discussion on Herb House maintenance (ML)  
Manny handed out a draft Scope of Study for Shaker Herb House for discussion at a later meeting.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Shields, Shaker Road, regarding development on Shaker Road, postponed (PM)

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

### Monument Committee (DV)

Dave reported that the committee is seeking estimates for the restoration of the WWII monument.

**CPC (EL)** Invitation for HHC member to inform CPC of projects planned by the commission over the next few years in order for CPC to budget properly over time. October 23, 2019 meeting

Manny will attend the meeting and carry the recommendations of the HHC as outlined above

### Cemetery Commission

### Demolition Delay Committee:

George reported that Chris Skelly may be able to help access the historic properties survey electronically. He will have an update at the next meeting as well as answers to some of the items discussed at the September meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** November 6, 2019

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

**7:19 pm**