

# 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 a public hearing and regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission held via Zoom and accessible to the public on Wednesday, **September 2, 2020** at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by George Triantaris, Secretary.

## **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Pam Marston (Chair)  
Steve Nigzus (Vice Chair)  
George Triantaris (Secretary)  
Emanuel Lindo  
Richard Cabelus  
Matthew McRae

## **MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:**

Brandon Loughery

## **AUDIENCE:**

Applicants, Pat Jennings (representing the monument committee)

## **TOPICS:**

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

**7:00 pm**

### **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Minutes of August 5th meeting unanimously approved.

### **ON-GOING APPLICATIONS:**

#### **1. 11 Massachusetts Avenue – Brandon Smithwood – fence**

After a brief review of the fence project that was deemed insubstantial at the last meeting and no public commentary, the HHC voted unanimously to approve as appropriate the application. Matt abstained as he is an abutter.

### **NEW APPLICATIONS:**

#### **1. 11 Massachusetts Avenue – Brandon Smithwood – solar panels**

An application to install solar panels on the house at 11 Massachusetts Avenue was presented, mostly by Dave Judelson, who is the homeowner's solar consultant. There were questions about the reason for placing most of the panels on the roof that faces the street. Dave responded that this was the best location but that other locations could be considered. There were also questions about the coverage of the panels on the street side roof (they would virtually cover that roof) and the impact of solar glare (this has not been considered but Dave felt there would not be a significant impact). There was a discussion about the trees which line Massachusetts Avenue and the fact that although trees might screen most of the roof from sight in the summer they cannot be considered as a screen. Brandon disclosed that he planned to cut down 2 of the 3 existing trees. The shingles on the house are gray and the panels will be black. There were questions about whether a pole mounted system had been

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considered (it had not, Dave suggested this was not typically done in a residential neighborhood). There was a discussion among the commissioners about solar panels in general. To date this group of commissioners has not ruled on whether solar panels on a street facing roof of a main structure were permissible. The need for further thought and possible revision of the design guidelines was discussed. Steve had reviewed solar panel guidelines from other towns which provide some guidance. The HHC voted unanimously to consider this a substantial change requiring a public hearing with Matt abstaining as he is an abutter. Steve will act as Brandon's advocate.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

### **1. 16 Ayer Road – Sandra Femino and Shawn McCollim deck**

**Public Hearing opened at 7:16**

**Presentation opened**

**Presentation of application**

**Sandra Femino presented**

Sandra summarized the deck proposal that was reviewed at the last meeting. She submitted plans with a few additional details such as the color for the rails and the decking and more specifics on the design. George asked about the height from the ground (7 feet). Manny asked about the color of the railings (white) and the deck (a cherry or cedar stain). Sandra said that they are trying to match the design and coloring of the porch on the front of the house. Richard asked about the width of the sliding door (8 feet) and said he liked the overall design but wanted to make sure the integrity of the structure was maintained.

**Presentation closed**

**Public Presentation opened**

**Public comments in favor:**

No member of the public appeared

**Public comments against:**

No member of the public appeared

**Public Participation closed**

**Commissioners' Deliberation and Vote**

After a brief discussion endorsing the project, the HHC voted unanimously to approve the application as appropriate.

**Public Hearing closed at 7:39**

### **2. 1 Ayer Road – Monument Committee refurbish WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Conflicts monuments**

**Public Hearing opened at 7:48**

**Presentation opened**

**Presentation of application**

**Pat Jennings presented on behalf of Monument Committee**

Pat summarized the application that was reviewed at the last meeting. In summary the current monument will be converted into a memorial by adding two flanking stones to include the names of the war veterans. At one time there was a wooden structure that served this purpose but it deteriorated. The committee has secured funding. Commissioners were pleased with the design and the blending the new stones with the existing monument.

**Presentation closed**

**Public Presentation opened**

**Public comments in favor:**

No member of the public appeared

**Public comments against:**

No member of the public appeared

**Public Participation closed**

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## Commissioners' Deliberation and Vote

After a brief discussion endorsing the project, the HHC voted unanimously to approve the application as appropriate. Richard abstained as he is a member of the Monument Committee

## Public Hearing closed at 7:59

**NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

## ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Bromfield stonewall project – update (EL)  
The town has selected a contractor to finish the wall and work will begin at the end of September. This is a new contractor. Manny has met with him.
2. Town Center lighting and power lines – on hold
3. Certificates of Appropriateness – update on uploading prior certificates on HHC website (GT)  
George secured a stack of HHC decisions from the past decade from the Town Clerk's Office. They are not required to keep the decisions and they were scheduled to be shredded. These will be scanned and added to the website as soon as it is ready.
4. Design Guidelines – discuss suggested revisions (EL)  
Manny has incorporated the changes that have been suggested. George asked whether the solar panel section could be reviewed and updated before the guidelines are finalized. There was also a discussion about storm windows which the bylaw states are excluded from review if they meet with HHC guidelines. Manny will draft suggested language to cover this. Commissioners asked to forward any further changes to be discussed and voted upon at the next meeting.
5. Rules and Regulations (previously known as policies and procedures) – update on revisions (GT)  
George will compile all suggestions from commissioners for discussion at the next meeting. Still waiting to hear from a few commissioners. It was observed that projects undertaken by more than a single commissioner require formal meetings that are open to the public as well as meeting minutes.
6. Insubstantial Changes – create list of alterations that will be deemed insubstantial and streamline process for their approval (BL/RC)  
This project has been folded into the Rules and Regulations.
7. Harvard Narrative History – historical survey 1993 and 1994 – on hold
8. HHC welcome packet for new homeowners – update (BL) Brochure (PM)  
This is on hold as Brandon was absent.
9. Introduction letter to district residents (GT)  
Also on hold until Brandon returns.
10. List of district properties that have sold in the last 3 years (SN)  
Steve to produce for the next meeting.
11. Historic Harvard Website (PM & BL)  
George reported that Brandon has met with Joe Theriault via zoom and will report back at next meeting.
12. 92 South Shaker Road (PM)  
Pam to send email to Alice Thayer reminding her that the garden fence is under HHC jurisdiction.
13. Herb House (ML)  
Manny to work on survey over next few months.
14. Follow up on Historic District Overlay (PM)  
Pam has not heard back from Tim Bragan. Steve attended a zoom meeting and reports that Chris Ryan suggested that it would be easy for the historic district lines to be overlaid on the GIS map.

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**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:**

**Monument Committee** (RC) Richard apparently a member of this committee.

**CPC** (PM)

**Cemetery Commission**

**Demolition Delay:** (GT) George suggested that the effort to move this forward wait until the Covid crisis has passed. Richard volunteered to help at that time by meeting with other groups to promote the proposed bylaw.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:**

October 7, 2020

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

**8:15 pm**

**DOCUMENTS:**

Applications (see above)