

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."

Following are the **minutes** for a meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission, including public hearings, held via Zoom on, Wednesday, **May 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm**.

Submitted by George Triantaris (Chair) and Richard Cabelus (Secretary)

Note: Zoom recordings are used by this commission to prepare minutes. However, this meeting was not recorded due to a failure of the Zoom system (verified by town administration). The commissioners were not aware of this failure during the meeting and did not keep detailed notes of the proceedings. The Chair and Secretary have relied on their own notes and memories to prepare the minutes for this meeting. As a result, the minutes are not as detailed as they would normally be.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2023 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects, and signed into law on March 29, 2023, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or online by following the link and phone number below.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

AUDIENCE:

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:00 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Review minutes of March 1 2023 and April 5 2023 meetings

Minutes of the March and April meetings were approved unanimously

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

The Chair preceded the public hearings with the following statement (which had been prepared in advance):

Before we start, I want to take a moment to remind ourselves of the function of the historical commission – we are charged to preserve and protect the historic assets of Harvard, its buildings, structures, places and sites, and surrounding settings of historical or architectural significance. What this means is that the commission, together with the current owners of these properties, are stewards of the two historical

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districts, with responsibility to ensure that their character and historical evolution remains intact for future generations and that the unique character of these districts, which could never be duplicated, is not lost to changes to the existing structures or development. Tonight, we have a very wide array of applications to consider from a new structure in the district to proposed alterations to an existing structure to minor repairs to others. Thank you for joining us and helping us to reach decisions that we hope will live up to our charge.

In our review of applications, we follow the guidelines laid out by:
The U.S. Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
The Mass Historical Commission Guidelines put forth by the Commonwealth
As well as the Harvard Design Guidelines

1. **5 Fairbank Street:** Erik Hammar, Precision Roofing, for Fay Martin, roof work

Erik Hammar presented the application for repairs and the installation of a standing metal seam roof on the porch roof. The application was considered and unanimously approved.

2. **4 Pond Road/Library:** Marty Green for the Trustees of the Harvard Public Library, library pavilion project

Marty Green presented the application for the construction of a library pavilion on the grounds of the Harvard Public Library. There was a discussion about the fact that this is a new and public structure in a prominent location and special care needed to be taken. Commissioners had had the opportunity to visit the site, view the outline of the structure on the ground as well as sample materials. The commissioners considered the impact on surrounding buildings, views from public ways, color and materials proposed and decided that the planners had minimized the impact of this project by locating the structure far from the existing library and designed it to blend with the landscape. The materials are compatible with the library. After discussion, the project was unanimously approved.

3. **11 Massachusetts Avenue:** R. Brandon Smithwood and Marguerite Davis, application for alterations to roof line of addition, replacement of windows on original house, removal of shutters, and other changes as outlined in application.

Application was presented by Anita Rogers (architect) on behalf of Brandon Smithwood and Marguerite Davis. It was noted that the original application was amended by the current application on April 6. The amended application made certain changes from the first application including the removal of the request to add additional solar panels. The chair requested Anita to present the proposed changes in two parts – the first reviewing the changes to the 1999 addition and the second the changes to the original 1939 house.

With regard to the changes to the 1999 addition, there was a discussion that structures should be preserved as is and as changed over time, however, in this case the feeling was that the 1999 addition was too large in scale and overwhelmed the original house and that the changes proposed would lessen the visual impact of the addition and make it more compatible with the house. There was a discussion regarding the proposed materials to be used including windows. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the changes to the 1999 addition as proposed.

With regard to the proposed changes to the 1939 house there was discussion about preserving original features including the shutters, windows and entryway. The shutters are not original to the house and are not the correct size and do not have the original hardware. The proposed entryway is a change from the

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original as shown in the MACRIS records (and as it currently exists). The windows are the original “rope and weight” double hung sashes. There was an extensive discussion about these original features with commissioners considering the importance of each as well as a back-and-forth discussion about energy efficiency and the importance of restoring and preserving original features. In the end the commission voted on the three items separately. The removal of the shutters and the change in the roofline to the entryway and addition of columns were approved. The replacement of the original windows was denied. (Matt abstained as an abutter) The applicants were encouraged to return to install additional solar panels once their plans were finalized.

4. **Harvard Historical Commission:** Consideration of additional exemptions from review by commission

In accordance with the town bylaw, the Chair presented additional exemptions from review by the commission. These included, storm doors, chimney caps, window boxes, certain signs, repainting a structure and paint color for all features other than roofs. After a discussion about paint color the commissioners unanimously approved these additional exemptions.

NON-APPLICABLE APPLICATIONS:

1. **16 Ayer Road:** Sandra Famino and Shawn McCollin, paint house same color and repairs

The commission unanimously approved the application for ordinary maintenance for painting and repairs with no change in design, materials, or outward appearance.

ONGOING APPLICATIONS:

NEW APPLICATIONS:

1. **16 Ayer Road:** Sandra Famino, work to include switching and replacing a door and window

The commissioners reviewed the application to determine whether the proposed changes were substantial or not. There were questions about the materials proposed for the steps and the walkway as well as for the proposed window and door swap. There was a discussion about altering the configuration of the windows and doors was appropriate, although the window and door in question are located at the side on the not on the front façade. The commissioners voted unanimously that these were substantial changes that required a public hearing. The chair, as advocate, will meet with the applicants to learn more about their plans and help them update the application.

2. **5 Fairbank Street:** Fay Martin, installation of heat pumps

The commission reviewed the application from Fay Martin to install heat pumps at the rear side of her home. Questions were asked about the placement of the condensers and the single exterior pipe. The changes will be visible from the side street but not from Fairbank. The commissioners voted that this was a substantial change that would require a public hearing. (George and Steve abstained as abutters)

NEW BUSINESS:

Due to the length of the meeting and number of hearings, much of the remaining items were tabled for

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future discussion

1. Chair's updates, procedural items, and project progress report review – GT
2. Commissioner terms and anticipated vacancies
3. Violations and possible action

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Ongoing discussion of potential changes to application procedures and rules and regulations,
2. Bromfield House – addition of Bromfield House to Harvard Common Historic District (PM, GT)
3. Project currently on hold:
 - Demolition Delay (GT)
 - Addition of non-contiguous structures to districts at homeowner's request
 - Town Center lighting and power lines (GT)
 - Harvard Narrative History – historical surveys 1993 and 1994 (GT)
 - Certificates of Appropriateness – upload historical records on website (GT)
 - Expansion of website to include helpful information on historic home preservation

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (MM)
CPC (PM)
Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)
Planning Board (RC)
Design Review Board (SN)
Devens Committee (RC)

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: June 7

MEETING ADJOURNED: