

# 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 the regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission at the Hildreth House, 15 Elm Street, on October 7, 2015 at 7PM.

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Joe Theriault called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**ATTENDANCE.** Joe Theriault, Moe Dancause, Pam Marston, David Vannicola and Rick Veltri who was assigned to vote for Wendy Eldredge. Wendy Eldredge and Sherry Graham were absent.

**REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.** The minutes of the September 2 meeting were approved as amended.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY.** There were no comments from the public.

**REVIEW NEW APPLICATIONS.** The Commission reviewed three applications received recently.

1. Daniel Van Schalkwyk, 27 Oak Hill Road. The Commission voted unanimously that the construction of a playhouse is substantial. Four members voted affirmative. Rick Veltri voted negative.
2. Andy and Robbin Hu, 13 Massachusetts Avenue to install new gutters, replace the porch floor and repaint the house. The Commission voted 4 to 1 that the project is substantial.
3. Marc Sevigny, 74 Shaker Road to install storm windows. The Commission voted unanimously that the application is non-applicable because the Bylaw specifically exempts storm windows especially those that are recommended by the Department of the Interior as proposed by the resident.

**CPC PROJECT ENDORSEMENTS:** Proposed by Town Clerk, Janet Vellante to restore Town Historic Documents at a cost of \$28K; Commission voted unanimously to endorse the project to the CPC. The Town Clerk accepted an action to advise the Historical Commission on how many more Town Hall documents she will be proposing to restore. Chair indicated that next year we will have to take a closer look at the document restoration plan to make sure this is where the Commission wishes to spend the town's historic preservation money.

**PUBLIC HEARING.** The public hearing was brought to order at 7:45 to determine the appropriateness of the work proposed by Andy and Robbin Hu to build a new garage behind their historic house at 13 Massachusetts Avenue, the Harvard Methodist Meeting House. The plan described by the Hu's contractor, Bob Kody of Envision Homes, Inc., was unanimously determined to meet the criteria set by the Town Bylaw Chapter 48 and the Historical Commission Design Guidelines.

**CHAIR'S TIME.** Teach-in: "Criteria for Determination"; The Chair walked the Commission through the criteria that should be considered for any application beginning first with the 2-3 provisions of the Bylaw Chapter 48, the Department of the Interior's General Guidelines and the Historical Commission Design Guidelines.

## **CORRESPONDENCE.**

- Received an email from Connie Larrabee of COA explaining that a double door on the second floor of the Hildreth House does not meet code and either must be restored or replaced with a



window. Connie wondered if our endorsement of the Hildreth window project would still stand if they were to replace the double doors with a window. Joe enlisted David Vannicola's help and together determined that the proposal was reasonable and that the Commission's endorsement would continue to stand.

- Received email from the COA and the School Committee regarding the Historical Commission plan to submit two Warrant Articles for the 2016 ATM asking for the Commission to explain to the two organizations how this action might affect the COA's plan for expansion project and the School Committee's plan to do the same with the Bromfield House. Joe met with both organizations to explain that there would be little or no impact on the project especially if work has already begun on the projects.

## **ON-GOING BUSINESS.**

The status of the Applications for Historic District projects were reviewed. (See atch 1 Applications Status) Rick Veltri volunteered to manage the status of the Applications for the Commission.

The status of Action Items, managed by Moe Dancause, was reviewed. (See atch 2 Action Item List)

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:**

### Administration Working Group (WG):

- The Commission reviewed the following P&P changes and voted unanimously to adopt each:
  - the two volume format to allow the policies to be revised separately from the Procedures;
  - page 10 of the Policies & Procedures except for para 3.2.3.1.1 on endorsing historic preservation projects for CPC
- Presentation to BOS on FY2016 operations and five year Preservation Plan was well accepted by the BOS. Next brief FinCom in November
- Reviewed the three CPA-fund requests for Shaker First Herb House, Future Historic Preservation Reserves and Shaker Cemetery Marker wrap-up. Projects will be presented to CPC on October 14.
- Brief the COA Board of Directors and the School Committee on the HHC's warrant articles to include the Hildreth House and Bromfield House to the Harvard Common Historic District. Briefing was received with interest and concern. The Commission discussed the strategy to get to the 2016 ATM.

Communications WG: No report.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC): No report.

Cemetery Commission Liaison: No report.

Education & Training WG: No report. Commissioner Eldredge will be absent for a few months.

Historic Districts WG: No report.

Historic Properties WG: The data entry is on hold while we resolve some database issues.

Master Plan Steering Cmte Liaison: No report.

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Membership Cmte: Moe Dancause nominated Scott Roy as Alternate Commissioner and the Commission voted unanimously to nominate him to an appointment by the Board of Selectmen.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Insufficient time to discuss any further agenda items. Postpone to next meeting.

The next meeting was set for November 4, 2015 at the Hildreth House.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Marston

Secretary