

# 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 of the REGULAR MEETING of the Harvard Historical Commission at the the Hildreth House, 15 Elm Street on March 4 at 7PM:

## TOPICS: TIME:

### CALL TO ORDER.

7:00

**COMMISSION ATTENDANCE.** : Joe Theriault (JT), Moe Dancause (MD), Ron Ostberg (RO), Sherry Graham (SG), Rick Veltri (RV), Chris Cutler (CC), Wendy Eldredge (WE). Absent: Pam Marston.

**OTHER ATTENDANCE.** Applicant: George Triantaris; THCC: Rick Maiore (Chair), Pablo Carbonell, Laura Andrews; Cemetery Commission: Jack Spero (Chair); Applicant: Scout Pat Pesa; David Vannicola, supporting the Cemetery Gate project.

**REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.** The minutes for the meetings of February 4 and 25 were unanimously approved as read.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY.** No comments from the members of the public.

7:05

### NEW BUSINESS:

**New Application: 2 Littleton Road, Steve Nigzus.** The Chair presented a new application filed on February 25 by Steve Nigzus and George Triantaris, owners of the Whitney House at 2 Littleton Road. The motion to consider the proposed work as substantial was approved unanimously. Mr. Triantaris asked the Commission if they would consider their choice of replacement shutter to be appropriate. He asked for a commitment since there is a long lead-time on their fabrication. After looking at a prototype shutter and some discussion, the Commission committed to consider the shutter appropriate for the project. The project will be reviewed at the Commission's April meeting in a public hearing.

### ON-GOING BUSINESS:

7:10

**Status of Open Applications: Town Hall Restoration (JG).** The Chair reviewed the remaining open issues with the Commission which are as follows:

1. Need to correct the grade on northwest and north sides which are above foundation exposing the wood of the building to surface water. (Menders and Juniper reports) Rebuild and point washed out fieldstone sections on west foundation walls. (Ref: Juniper Envelope Assessment, p. 2) **Status: In spite of reports that the problem had been corrected, this problem continues to exist. The Historical Commission considers this a threat to the historic preservation of the exterior of the building. Installation of the new clapboards below the existing grade is not acceptable.**
2. Need to see the design of the cornice, soffit, and gutter profile at the north and south elevations and how the two will be integrated together. The original construction did not include a gutter system. How will this be done consistent with the Italianate architecture. **Status: The drawings provided by the architect show details that are inconsistent with the existing profile of the moldings around the gutter and on the front and rear facade. Therefore, the ad-hoc subcommittee needs to convene to review this matter. Because the built-in gutter was not part of the original Town Hall design, the solution may lie in exposing the gutter rather than building it in.**
3. The current pipe and post design of the portico and ramp is not congruous with the Italianate design of the building. (Menders and Juniper reports) **Status: An ad-hoc HHC-THCC Subcommittee to review details.**

Mr. Carbonell of the THCC reported that a separate project with a local contractor will change the current grade around the north and west sides of the Town Hall to bring the grade below the top of the foundation and prevent the clapboards from exposure to ground water. The Commission was shown the drawings which show the lower grade and a swale going around the building which will **protect** the exterior of the building from exposure to water. With this proposal, the Commission considers the issue resolved.

Regarding issue #2 pertaining to the cornice, soffit, and gutter profile, Mr. Carbonell reported that the current drawings which show details not consistent with the existing profile were incorrectly drawn and that in fact the design calls for a profile identical to the existing profile. As to the built-in gutter, the THCC indicated that it is their best recommendation to leave the design as-is. The Commission accepted the new built-in gutter design but emphasized that the design was not an earlier part of the roof design of the Town Hall building. It is a modification that is in the best interest of the historic preservation of the building. With this agreement, the Commission considers the issue resolved.

Regarding issue #3 pertaining to the front entrance ramp, RO reported that all issues had been reconciled with some changes to the aesthetics of the ramp. With this agreement, the Commission considers the issue resolved.

The Chair congratulated the team for aggressively resolving all issues very quickly considering the complexity of the project, the new THCC staff, and the history of the project. The application having been submitted on January 12 was resolved to the Commission's satisfaction in less than 60 days and more than five (5) difficult Special Meetings.

The Chair further reiterated to the THCC that the Commission would appreciate a discussion on the topic of the building envelope with the Committee to present their understanding of the design from roof to cellar of the building envelope. The key consideration will be the extent to which the issues in the Juniper report are addressed.

The Chair called for a 'Lessons-Learned' session on the Town Hall Restoration review at its next meeting.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING.**

Public Hearing 1: Shaker Cemetery Gate Project

7:30

Vice Chair Moe Dancause introduced the project jointly sponsored by the Historical and Cemetery Commissions. MD noted that the project is to reproduce the gate to the Shaker Cemetery as shown in a 1930's photo. According to Shaker historian Roben Campbell, the gate was in place during the period that Shakers were still living in the Harvard Shaker Village. With the damage to the trees caused by the Hurricane of 1938, the gate was probably lost during that storm. MD further noted that Scout Pat Pesa who is working on achieving Eagle Scout, volunteered to reproduce the gate. His project will be funded by the Lions Club of Harvard. The Historical Commission will be responsible for designing and installing the hinges while the Cemetery Commission will be responsible for reproducing the sign on the gate. The sign will actually be constructed by Whit Sprague and painted by artist Karen Dolimount. Scout Pesa presented his approach for reproducing the gate. Designer David Vannicola presented a second approach for reproducing the gate, the results of which essentially validated Scout Pesa's approach. The Commission voted unanimously that the project is appropriate for the Shaker Cemetery and the Shaker Village District.

Public Hearing 2: To approve new digitized GIS-compatible Historic District maps

8:00

Chair Joe Theriault introduced the issue which is to determine whether the town should replace its hand-drawn maps of the two Historic Districts with digital GIS-compatible maps. JT noted that a copy of the new maps are available (downloadable) on the HHC website as are two listings of the properties that make up each Historic District. The Commission voted unanimously to sponsor the Warrant Article for the ATM on 28 March.

#### **UNFINISHED/ON-GOING BUSINESS.**

##### Status of Open Applications

-Hildreth House Project (TBD): Need project liaison.

-Bromfield Stone Wall (CC): Status. On Hold until Spring

-Powder House Door (MD): On Hold until Spring

##### Status of Open Action Item

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:**

Administration Working Group (WG): Postponed report to April meeting.

Communications WG: Postponed report to April meeting.

Historic Districts WG: Postponed report to April meeting.

Historic Properties WG: Postponed report to April meeting.

Membership Cmte (MD): Need to recruit more volunteers and one more Alt Commissioner.

Cemetery Comm Liaison (MD):

-Report on Joint meeting w/Cemetery Comm, DPW: Cemetery maintenance. MD reported that the Cemetery Commission has not yet reschedule our joint meeting with the DPW. We will continue to try to get a meeting scheduled to discuss the work that is required for the Shaker Cemetery.

-Report on Publication of draft Shaker Cemetery Burial Listing on HHC website. MD reported that the project is on-going. The Burial Listing will soon be launched on the Commission website. The Commission is supported by Roben Campbell, Shaker Historian.

Community Preservation Cmte Liaison (PM) : Report on Appeal for creating reserve CPC fund for HHC. JT is on the CPC agenda at their March meeting to discuss the reserve CPC fund and other issues. Will report at April meeting.

Master Plan Steering Cmte Liaison (JT) : No report

**NEW BUSINESS**

Lessons-Learned (Town Hall Application). Postponed report to April meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** No comments from the members of the public. 9:50

**SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** April 1, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT** 10:00

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph R. Theriault  
Chair,  
Harvard Historical Commission