

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 February 4 at 7PM.

TOPICS:

TIME

CALL TO ORDER

7:00

ATTENDANCE: Joe Theriault, Moe Dancause, Pam Marston, Chris Cutler, Rick Veltri, Ron Ostberg and Wendy Eldridge.

AUDIENCE: Jack Spero (Cemetery Commission), Jack Guswa (Vice Chair, THCC), and Rick Maiore (Chair, THCC), David Vannicola (HHC volunteer), Pat Pesa (Scout), Billy Salter (Public) and Ken Swanton (BOS)

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (January 7 meeting) The minutes were approved as read. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

7:05

PUBLIC HEARING:

Town Hall Construction Project: determination of appropriateness.

7:15

Jack Guswa went over the general schedule for the final designs and bids. The final designs will be ready by Feb 11. By March 13, the bids will be back.

THCC did not have drawings available for the Commission as they were not available from the architect. They will be completed by Feb 11.

Jack explained the various parts of the proposal:

Restore tower base, new handicap ramp, new gutters, add rear door portico, new gutters and soffits, external stairwell to basement (to keep or not), replace clapboard with red cedar clapboard with ogee profile (current profile), replace insulation, replace shingles, repair/replace ornamentation (according to July 2013 specs), remove existing ramp and remove the door at the ramp and replace with clapboards, remove chimneys, replace windows, remove flag pole. Copper gutters and downspouts staining the white building was a concern. Grading around the building as outlined in the two reports was a concern.

The Application Presentation part of the hearing was closed.

Abutter, Billy Salter, was concerned that no drawings were available to the Commissioners hence making it impossible to vote on the application.

Ken Swanton (BOS) spoke as an abutter asking about the design of the window that will be installed in the Upper Hall above the handicapped door.

Chris moved that the Commission make no decisions until the drawings are in hand. The vote was unanimous. The hearing will be continued until Feb 18.

OTHER APPLICATIONS:

Town Hall Restoration (JG): HHC recommendations for Town Hall Restoration; Project status.

Shaker Cemetery Gate (MD): New application. Commissioners looked at the pictures of the proposed gate. It will be fabricated out of red cedar by Boy Scout, Pat Pesa, as his Eagle Scout project. Jeff Baer gave an estimate of less than \$100 to do the masonry work to connect the gate to granite posts. The vote was unanimous that the gate application was substantial.

Powder House Door (MD): Project status.

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ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Status of Open Applications

-Hildreth House Window Replacement (CC): Status. Bids were sent out and there were no responses. Talk of town volunteers putting windows in has gone nowhere. Joe recommended that HHC assign a liaison to the COA to advise them on their Hildreth Remodeling project.

-Bromfield Stone Wall (CC): Status. In work.

Status of Action Items (See Action Item List) Commissioners reviewed the list of action items.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Administration Working Group (WG)

-Policies/Procedures (JT):

* Correction to our process for legal notice publication for public hearings. Joe reported that our Historic District bylaw (Chap 48, Section 7, para D) requires publication of a legal notice in the local press for our public hearings to review applications.

* Should we distribute notices to all residents of a district, not just abutters? Our bylaw gives the Commission the discretion to distribute notices to "... all other properties deemed by the Commission to be materially affected..." It was decided that all district residents will be notified of hearings, not just abutters, to simplify our process and reduce the cost to our residents.

Communications WG:

-Administering Demolition Delay Bylaws, MHC Seminar, Framingham, 19 Feb 10-2PM. There is no registration fee. All commissioners are invited. Joe will attend.

-Call from PBS (Jeff Belanger) about Shaker Spring House and possible video about it. More on this later.

-MHC request for review of draft Preservation Agreement on Pollard-Marshall House. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the BOS that the BOS approve the Preservation Agreement on the Pollard-Marshall House, 327 Still River Road by Historic New England. Joe Cornish, representing Historic New England will join Joe at the BOS' February 24 meeting to make the HHC recommendation that BOS approve the agreement.

Historic Districts WG - Warrant Article to update district maps (JT). Joe reported that the Commission will have a public hearing on the Warrant Article at our March meeting.

Historic Properties WG

-Local Register of Historic Places Program (JT). No report.

-Historic House Marker Program (PM). No report.

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

Cemetery Comm Liaison (MD):

-Joint meeting w/Cemetery Comm, DPW: Cemetery maintenance. A joint meeting of the Cemetery and Historical Commissions will be held to review maintenance work with the Director of the DPW for the Shaker Cemetery. The date is TBD.

-Publication of draft Shaker Cemetery Burial Listing on HHC website. No report.

Community Preservation Cmte Liaison (PM) : Appeal for creating reserve CPC fund for HHC. Joe and Pam will meet with the CPC at their March meeting to discuss the need for a Reserve CPC fund for Historic Preservation.

Master Plan Steering Cmte Liaison (JT) : Delivery of draft Master Plan imminent.

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NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss General Store Dumpster question and options. There have been several complaints from townspeople to Commissioners about the location of the General Store's dumpsters at the corner of Still River Road and Mass Ave. They are located close to the road and have increased to two dumpsters as well as trash piled between them. The feeling is that they are unsightly and are almost in the roadway. Ron will talk with Scott about how to make them less unsightly and less of a driving hazard.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

9:50

EXECUTIVE SESSION (NOT SCHEDULED)

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: March 4, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

10:00