

Harvard Historical Commission

Minutes for Regular Meeting

Location: Center on the Common, Fireplace Room

Wednesday Evening Aug 6, 2014 at 7:00 PM

"Oversee modifications to the Harvard Common and Shaker Village Historic Districts in accordance with the state and local bylaws, and generally support historic preservation in Harvard."

Attendance:

Members present: Joe Theriault, Pam Marston, Chris Cutler, Sherry Graham and Moe Dancause

Members absent: Ken Swanton, Ron Ostberg

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. June 11 minutes were amended to read that Moe was in attendance. July 2 was approved as written. The vote was unanimous for both sets of minutes.

Bromfield Wall Public Hearing

Joe Schmidt was present at the meeting to address any questions that came up at the hearing. Joe spoke about the project. 40 feet of the wall was rebuilt and a concrete cap was added to the top. He reported that the steps have been improved as well. There are still funds remaining from the total CPC funds. The total length of the wall is 633 feet. It is 95 feet from the Bromfield School entrance to the opening in the middle, 277 feet in the last part and the middle is approximately 261 feet. Joe proposes to do the 95 feet with the remaining funds allotted. He plans on going to CPC to do the middle part next year, then following year asking CPC for the last part. Chris asked about putting cement in the small openings to make the wall more secure. He will ask Joe Blue about doing that. Joe will add the verbiage about cement and added posts. The feeling of the commission was that the application was appropriate. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Ongoing Projects:

a. Town Hall Renovation:

There was no report.

b. Powder House Restoration:

The mason is planning on taking it apart in August then starting the restoration in the fall.

c. New alternate members: Membership committee will work on that.

d. Historic marker program: Joe has posted the description and downloadable application for applicants to request markers for their property. Pam asked Carlene Phillips if she would write an

article for the paper announcing the marker program. Included will be a picture of Ken's house with the marker installed.

e. Replace broken sign at entrance to Harvard Common on Ayer Rd:

Chris fabricated the sign and Pam had it printed at ISS in Shirley. Chris will send us an invoice for the cost of the sign and ISS will send HHC an invoice for the printing (\$25).

f. Remove trees around the Shaker burial ground:

The project is completed. Moe signed off on the project. Forty one trees were taken down with a total cost of \$17,000. They did not need to take down any of the wall in order to remove the hazard trees. There are lots of pine chips in the area that need to be removed. Pam will report to CPC about the project and its completion.

g. Follow up on Hildreth House windows:

CPC funds were to be used for windows and doors and other improvements. The description is of high end windows at \$1500 per window. (32 windows). There are numerous doors making a total of \$57,640. HHC is a sponsor of the application. Pam will ask CPC about it. HHC will need to follow up on this matter. CPC is in charge of this project but are they depending on us to check on the project as to its historical appropriateness?

h. Reports from liaisons to:

CPC: Pam has not attended a meeting yet. She will attend the August 27th one.

HCC: HHC should nudge the highway department and Cemetery commission to maintain the cemeteries more consistently. Moe and Joe will meet with HCC and Highway department. Stump shavings need to be removed. Ruts were created and loam is needed to fill those in. A gate needs to be fabricated for the Shaker Cemetery. Jack Spero, from HCC, has discussed what it should look like. The idea is to model the gate after a postcard picture from long ago. Moe will meet with the HCC on this gate.

Local register: It is still in the making.

Master Plan Steering committee: We expect a delay for a plan because the contractor cannot deliver the working papers to his original schedule.

Membership committee: will put plans together to attract new members and three or four volunteers.

Next scheduled meeting: Sept 3, 2104

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Marston, Secretary