

Harvard Historical Commission

Agenda for Regular Meeting

Location: Center on the Common, Fireplace Room

Wednesday Evening May 7, 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."

Members present: Ken Swanton, Joe Theriault, Pam Marston, John Martin, Moe Dancause, Ron Ostberg, Chris Cutler and Sherry Graham

John will not be voting unless a member leaves the meeting tonight.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

Attendees: Joe Schmidt from Park and Rec commission

Minutes

The minutes for February were approved as written. The minutes for April were approved as revised.

Bromfield Wall Renovation

The stone wall in front of the Library needs to be repaired and rebuilt. Joe Schmidt, chairman of Park and Recreation Commission was present to explain to the HHC the progress made so far on the project. The plan is to create a pilot program working with 40' of the wall. The current cement cap will be removed and discarded. The remaining stones will be rearranged in place with cement on the inside and a granite cap will be added similar to the wall across the street at the HES. The fire department requests that the driveway entrance to the Library, at this place in the wall, be widened so fire trucks can go through more easily. There are granite markers at the entrance to the driveway making for a very small clearance for fire trucks currently. There are three quotes for the repair. The one chosen is \$13,000 from Joe Blue, a mason in town. Joe will put together a rough schedule for the construction since no one is sure of the type of existing foundation. Parks and Rec can go back to CPC for more money, if needed, to finish the rest of the wall. They were granted funding of approximately \$50,000 for the whole wall originally. We discussed supporting the project and the resolution states: "HHC authorizes a test project for approximately 40' of stone wall in front of Old

Bromfield on Mass Ave as funded by CPC with the understanding that the expansion of this project will require an application for certificate of appropriateness.” The vote to approve was unanimous.

Veteran’s Marker on Harvard Common

Joe Schmidt presented a proposal, from Park and Recreation, to take apart the WWI memorial base made of concrete and replace it. The proposal is to put together a group from various groups in town to study the current memorial and determine the best material to be used. Also, redefine it as a Veterans Memorial. Ron suggested getting an estimate for a granite base. Joe is looking for an endorsement from HHC that the base of the memorial be replaced with a more permanent material. The vote was 6 yes and Moe voted no.

Town Hall Renovation

BOS has picked an option for the design. HHC is the sponsor of CPC funds for the Town Hall restoration so the HHC will also be involved to assure the funds are spent for historical preservation. BOS voted to do a building envelope evaluation. Town government will remain in the Town Hall building. The cupola will be done later by Monty Tech students. New windows are not included in the chosen proposal. They may be added later.

Ongoing Projects:

a. Powder House Restoration: The insurance claim is not settled so the mason is working on another project. Ken lined up the mason to take the building apart in July and put it back together in the fall. Ken will go to FinCom for an advance to start the project.

b. Report from the Membership Committee: A motion was made that Chris be added to the membership committee. The vote in favor was unanimous. Members will each receive a document asking what we are willing to do on the Commission. The Membership Committee will use this information to put together a slate of officers. The Historic Districts committee will be co chaired by two commissioners. They will review applications for certificates and make suggestions, if necessary, to the owners and then follow up upon completion of the project. They will decide which properties are contributing properties. The Information Committee is 3 officers for now.

c. Historic marker program: Pam will pursue another sign maker for the markers. Grafix has not returned the marker we used for a sample on Ken’s house. Chris is ready to fabricate a few markers to be ready for the announcement

d. Update design guidelines for historic markers : Joe has made changes in the design guidelines to include new language for signs in the historic districts. The new language is in red. “Applicants should note existing signs nearby **and historical signage types if photographs are available and relevant**. Wooden signs are appropriate in the historic districts, **as are more durable synthetic and composite materials that, once painted, are deemed to be indistinguishable from wood as seen from the public way. In some cases other materials might be appropriate - - e.g., there might be historical evidence for metal signs. Applicants are encouraged to bring any questions to the Commission as early in the design process as possible. Note that the Protective Bylaw, in Section 125.41, also governs signs, and applicants will have to comply with its provisions as well.”**

e. Removal of trees around the Shaker Burial Ground: Flagg Tree Company will remove the trees in July.

f. Follow up on Hildreth House windows: Chris called Ann Taylor about replacement windows. He will check on what is happening at this point.

g. Reports from liaisons:

CPC: no meeting

Master Plan: The Preservation Planner is creating a paper for the committee's perusal. They will issue a survey and hopefully the results will help them know in which direction to proceed.

HCC: no meeting

h. Replace broken sign at entrance to Harvard Common on Ayer Rd: Pam will take the blank sign to ISS in Shirley to have them print the needed text. She needs to get the original text from John.

i. Review list of older action items from previous HHC meetings: We looked at the list of items and decided which ones were still relevant, which could be put off for a year or not done at all.

j. Review of next group of HHC Policies and Procedures: Not addressed at this time.

Other business

Are we connecting with other HC in the area? Joe has a list of those who will meet with us to discuss critical and common items. MA Community Preservation Coalition website has items of interest in this regard.

Next scheduled meeting: June 4

Meeting adjourned at 9:30

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Marston

Secretary