

Harvard Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Location: Center on the Common, Fireplace Room
Wednesday Evening April 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM

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

Attendees: Robert Adam, Anne Heintz

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm and the minutes for March 2014 were approved unanimously.

Update on the Powder House

The documentation has been done on the Powder House. Ken asked the commission to approve the paying of the documentation bill of \$2790 to Bill Finch. He was an architect for Mass Historical Commission and has worked on many historic buildings. The Commission members discussed how we thought the building should be rebuilt. Robert Adam described the types of bricks and the mortar that will be used. The door threshold will need to be replaced as well. Ken's resolution reads that the Powder House be rebuilt with original outside bricks and new bricks for the inside as the public will not be able to see those. The vote was unanimous to approve the payment and the resolution. The insurance company may be contacting the town soon to give their final numbers.

Update on the stone wall

Chris updated the commissioners on the wall. He asked Robert Adam if we should repair it as is but it may need to be completely rebuilt. Park and Rec Commission is in charge of this project and CPC money would be involved in the restoration/rebuild. Joe Schmidt, from Park and Rec has 4 bids out. HHC will review any proposals in order to approve an application.

Update on Town Hall

BOS is not ready to update us on the application. HHC is the sponsor of the CPC funding and as such we must make sure that the funds are used for the restoration and the preservation of the building. Our responsibility is one of advising the BOS and the architect. In the end, we want to make sure the funds are well spent. Ken's resolution reads that "The Historical Commission will review the proposed Town Hall renovation in two ways. First, as with any building in the Harvard Common Historic District, we need to review and approve exterior alterations. Second, as the CPC sponsor of the one million dollars of the CPC spending on this project we will monitor to insure that the funding is spent on historical preservation."

Bromfield House

BOS was talking about bulldozing it at one of their meetings. HHC needs to remind the School Committee that this is an historic building. It has historical and architectural significance. There is a story here to be told. It was proposed that a committee be created to look into restoring it or finding another use for it. Ken proposed a resolution that said, "The Historical Commission hopes a solution can be found for Bromfield House that will not require eliminating this historic structure from Harvard Center." The vote for restoration was unanimous.

Appointing a membership committee

Joe, Sherry and Moe will recommend a slate of officers for the coming term. They will also be responsible for bringing in more volunteer committee members. The vote to approve this committee was unanimous.

Database for Historical Properties

Tony Brianti will create a database of historical properties to be posted on the commission's website.

Alternate Commissioner Position

Anne Heintz attended the meeting as a possible candidate for the alternate position on the Commission.

HHS and HHC Reception

Both Commissions will co-host a reception for Ralph Houghton whose family built the first house in Harvard. He plans on visiting Harvard in August and would like to visit the family homestead.

Tree Removal in Shaker Cemetery

Moe is leading the project for HCC. Matt Flagg will be able to start soon on the removal of the trees and ATM has to certify that the project can go forward.

Hildreth House Windows

Chris will meet with Richard Blinn who will be in charge of the removal and replacement of the windows.

House Markers

The marker initiative is ready to go as soon as we get Ken's marker back from the sign maker. The plan is to ask Carlene Phillips to write an article for the *Press* about the initiative. It would include a photo of the marker on the house as well.

Ongoing Projects

Master Plan work has been extended for 6 months. The contractor is working on a paper for each of the five areas we are planning to review. A survey will be done to assure that what is planned for is OK with townspeople.

Design Guidelines Change

HHC Design Guidelines state that any sign on an historic house cannot be made from a synthetic material. HHC's new plaque initiative will be using a synthetic resin, primarily for durability, so we will have to rewrite the sign portion of the guidelines to include synthetic materials.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for May 7, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Marston