

# 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."*

Those wishing to record any or all of the meeting must alert the chair prior to the start of the meeting and the chair will make an announcement, in accordance with The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

Following are the **minutes** of the regular meeting and public hearing of the Harvard Historical Commission, held via Zoom, on **December 1, 2021 at 7 pm**.

Submitted by Richard Cabelus, Secretary.

## MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

George Triantaris (Chair)  
Pam Marston (Vice Chair) \*intermittently disconnected by Zoom  
Richard Cabelus (Secretary)  
Emanuel Lindo  
Steve Nigzus  
Brandon Loughery  
Matthew McRae

## MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

None

**AUDIENCE:** Fay Martin, Ricardo Strobino, Brian Smithwood, John Lee

## TOPICS:

## CALL TO ORDER:

**7:00 pm**

## REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Minutes of the November 3, 2021 were approved by unanimous vote.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

## ONGOING APPLICATION:

1. 5 Fairbank Street – Fay Martin – New replacement fence – Retroactive Certificate Application

At 7:02 pm the chair asked Brandon as advocate to present this retroactive certificate application for a replacement fence that the Commission deemed to be an insubstantial change at the last meeting. Brandon presented the application and indicated abutters were notified. Brandon briefly described the application and asked Ms. Martin if she had anything to add. Ms. Martin indicated she had nothing to add. Matt made a motion to approve the application as submitted. Brandon seconded. The chair indicated that he and Steve would not vote as they are abutters. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the retroactive certificate application. The votes were as follows: Matt-yay, Brandon-yay, Manny-Yay, Richard-yay, George-

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abstained, Steve-abstained, Pam- not present. The chair informed the applicant that the application was approved and that a certificate will issue to her and the building inspector will be notified and be on record there.

## NEW APPLICATIONS:

### 1. 11 Mass Ave – Brandon Smithwood – Alteration to driveway

Mr. Smithwood was not present when the chair first took up this application at 7:04 pm. The chair indicated that he would hold the application over and wait for the applicant to appear. The chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

At 7:16 the Mr. Smithwood appeared and presented his application that calls for skirting a part of the driveway with cobblestone in front of his double bay garage. The asphalt in front of the garage doors would be replaced with a block rectangular strip of cobblestone. The chair indicated that although this seems to be a minor change it does come under the Commission's jurisdiction, but the chair believed it was an insubstantial change. Matt indicated he thought this was a nice improvement and he also believed it was insubstantial. Matt indicated however that he could not vote as an abutter. Brandon made a motion that the application was an insubstantial change. Richard seconded. The Commission voted unanimously that the application was an insubstantial change. Matt- abstained. Pam- not present.

### 2. 18 Fairbank Street – Strobino – Additional replacement windows, replacement doors and roof repair

The chair called this application to order at 7:05 pm. The Chair indicated that the job of the Commission tonight was to determine whether this application was substantial or insubstantial. Steve and the applicant presented the application to the Commission. The application was presented in four parts. Mr. Strobino indicated that the first part of the application was the replacement of 4 windows. The applicant indicated these windows were in the back of the house, on the west side. The applicant indicated he was proposing Anderson 400 series windows, double hung wood, 6 over 6 on this application. These are the same windows that were previously approved by the Commission on a prior application of Mr. Strobino. The second part of the application is for the replacement of an exterior door. The applicant indicated that the door seeking to be replaced was not original to the house. The applicant wants to replace the door with a green door, with windows on the top half that he states aesthetically compliment the house's history. The third part of the application was to replace a barn door. The applicant said the barn door is falling apart and is need of replacement. Mr. Strobino wants to replace the barn door with similarly appearing barn doors in the Historic Common District. He provided multiple pictures in the application as options for the Commission to consider. The last part of the application was to repair the roof. The main house is asphalt shingle, whereas the barn has wood shingles covered by slate. The applicant seeks to repair the roof with the same materials. The applicant also indicated that his front stairs needs a hand rail. The applicant seeks to install an aluminum handrail on the front stairs for safety purposes. At the conclusion of the presentation the chair indicated that he would like the applicant to narrow his choices on the barn door before the next meeting so the Commission knows exactly what it is it is considering. Manny then sought clarification on the roof and what was being done exactly. The applicant clarified that the roof was to be repaired in-kind, as necessary. Steve then made a motion the application was substantial. Richard seconded. The Commission then voted Steve-yay, Matt-abstained, Brandon-yay, Richard, yay, Manny-yay, George-yay, Pam-not present. The application was deemed substantial. A public hearing will be held at the next meeting on the application and notices of the hearing will be sent to all appropriate parties.

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## NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

1. 1 Still River Road – Harvard General Store – Scott Haywood – Exhaust fan extension

The chair went over Scott Hayward's application at 7:15 pm. The chair stated that the building inspector and fire chief are compelling the Harvard General Store to elevate an exhaust fan on the side of the store and move it further up the exterior wall. There is also a conduit that has to be installed and an exhaust box needs to be moved up and will be painted the same color of the building. The chair stated this is a fire code issue and approved the application as being outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to consider.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chair's updates and project progress report review

The chair stated that he sent an email around with webinar updates through Mass Historical if commissioners are interested in attending any. The chair then went over his spreadsheet of past projects that commissioners needed to follow up on and see if the work had been done, and if not the applicant may need seek an extension of their certificate. The chair then went through the itemized spreadsheet of all recent past projects and assigned commissioners to follow up on each application with the applicant and to have each commissioner report back on the application status and completeness, and as to whether any further action may be required, or the matter could be closed.

## ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Shaker Herb House Grant Application (ML)

Manny gave an update that there was an agreement with the town contracting office as to a town contracting strategy for the project, and a schedule as to how to get to a contract. Massachusetts will have guidance posted soon on the process. Manny indicated that it would be important to decipher if there was lead paint in the Shaker Herb House and he would like the Commission to approve \$250.00 to test for lead paint. Manny then asked the Commission if it would approve \$250.00 for lead paint testing. The chair was in agreement of the prospect of testing, but was concerned that he did not want to exhaust the Commission's entire \$250.00 budget as the Commission may need some of the budget for letterhead, envelopes and other ancillary expenses. Pam indicated that some monies may be needed for these things. Manny then reduced his funding request for \$200.00 so the Commission would have some money in reserve for ancillary expenses. Steve seconded Manny's motion for \$200.00 to test the Shaker Herb House for lead paint. The Commission approved the request unanimously. Steve indicated that he may know someone who can do the test within that budget.

2. Bromfield House discussion (PM)

The chair stated the Bromfield House can be added to the Historic District as has been previously discussed. The chair then indicated that at Town meeting in the fall two-thirds of the Town voted to preserve Bromfield House on its current location. The chair indicated that although Town meeting cannot direct the Historical Commission to add the Bromfield House to the Harvard Common Historic District or make it its own district

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that vote exhibited the will of the Town that the Bromfield House be preserved and is persuasive on the HHC and it would be incumbent upon the Commission to act in a manner consistent with that goal. Pam agreed. Brandon agreed. Richard Agreed. Steve voiced his concern that the Select Board could sidestep any attempt of the Historic Commission to add the Bromfield House to the historic district by demolishing the building. The chair indicated that even if that is so the Commission still needs to undertake its work. Manny then voiced his agreement that the Historic Commission take affirmative steps to preserve the Bromfield House as an affirmative step by Town government to heed the will of the people at Town meeting. Richard then made a motion that the Harvard Historical Commission begin to take all appropriate action to put the Bromfield House under the jurisdiction of the Historical Commission by adding Bromfield House to the Harvard Common Historic District. The motion passed unanimously at 7:38 pm. Pam then went over the process as to how to add Bromfield House to the historic district and how a two-thirds majority would ultimately be required at Town meeting and the many steps in the process. The chair made clear the Commission is not making a new historic district but seeking to add Bromfield House to the Harvard Common Historic District. Commissioners then discussed how next steps could be organized and how work can be delegated to move this process forward.

### 3. Shaker Meeting House shutters (PM)

Pam left the letter at one of the front doors and taped the letter to the door.

### 4. Project currently on hold:

Demolition Delay (GT)

Town Center lighting and power lines (GT)

Harvard Narrative History – historical surveys 1993 and 1994 (GT)

Certificates of Appropriateness – upload historical records on website (GT)

Possible expansion of historic districts (GT and RC)

## CORRESPONDENCE:

John Lee discussed an email the Cemetery Commission received in September from the Boston Tea Party Museum that a tea party participant is buried in Harvard. Elijah Houghton, an 18<sup>th</sup> century Harvard resident participated in the Tea Party, fought in the American Revolution and lived his whole life in Harvard. Mr. Lee informed the Commission The Tea Party Museum is coming to Harvard on December 14<sup>th</sup> to have a ceremony at Mr. Houghton's grave marker. Mr. Lee invited commissioners to attend the event.

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

### 1. Monument Committee (MM)

Nothing to report.

### 2. CPC (PM)

Pam said CPC meeting monthly to listen to applications.

### 3. Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

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Nothing to report.

4. Planning Board (RC)

Nothing to report.

5. Devens Committee (RC)

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

**SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:**

January 5, 2022.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 7:53 p.m. by unanimous vote.