



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 November 3, 2021 at 7 pm.

Submitted by Richard Cabelus, Secretary.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

George Triantaris (Chair)
Pam Marston (Vice Chair)
Richard Cabelus (Secretary)
Emanuel Lindo
Steve Nigzus
Brandon Loughery
Matthew McRae

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

None

AUDIENCE: Anne Butterfield, Ashley from [RE]Architect, Fay Martin

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

The minutes of October 6, 2021 were reviewed and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent. **PUBLIC**

HEARINGS:

1. 13 Old Littleton Road - Anne Butterfield - New deck

The Chair began by acknowledging the presence of the Applicant Anne Butterfield and Ashley her architect from [RE]Architect. The Chair then checked for any conflicts among Commission Members. At 7:02 Richard made a motion to open the public hearing and presentation which passed unanimously. Steve shared his screen that had a copy of Ms. Butterfield's application. Ashley began presenting the Application which was for a new deck in the rear of Ms. Butterfield's property. Ashley indicated they already received their special permit approval from the ZBA regarding setback conflicts. Ashley indicated that there were sample materials at the property she hoped Commissioners saw. Ashley began showing slides of what the proposed deck would look like. Ashley also showed pictures of the rear of the home from various public ways and said deck exposure from those public ways were minimal. Ashley also showed slides with pictures of the property with prospective plantings and shrubbery to



further shield

the deck from public view. The Chair interjected at this point and said that plantings and shrubbery are not to be considered by the Commission but thanked her for sharing nonetheless. Ashley then briefly spoke about the design of the deck and asked if anyone had any specific questions regarding design. The Commissioners had no questions. Richard then made a motion to close the presentation and open the public participation that Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Chair asked if there were any members of the public who wished to speak in favor of the Application. Nobody spoke. The Chair then asked if anyone wished to speak against the Application. Nobody spoke. The Chair then indicated he received one email from Susan Barber of Old Littleton Road in favor of the Application. Ms. Butterfield then politely reminded the Chair that there were multiple people at last month's meeting who showed up in favor of the Application, but she did not ask them to come again. The Chair thanked her and took note of their presence at the last meeting. Pam made a motion to close the public participation. Richard seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Commissioners then began deliberating. Richard began by speaking in favor of the Application. The Chair then said he supported the Application, as it does not alter the main structure and is reversible if necessary. Steve then made a motion to approve the Application. Manny seconded. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Application. The Chair thanked the Applicant and congratulated her and said the Commission will be issuing her a Certificate of Appropriateness. Ms. Butterfield thanked the Commission. Pam made a motion to close the public hearing. Matt seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 7:12 pm.

ONGOING APPLICATION:

The Chair indicated that the Commission had no ongoing applications this month.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

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

The Chair asked Steve to share his screen regarding the Retroactive Application of 5 Fairbank Street. The Chair said the Commission's job tonight is to determine whether this Application is substantial or insubstantial. The Chair briefly described the process of two hearings being required to make a final determination on an application and the difference in procedure moving forward if at tonight's meeting the Application was deemed substantial or insubstantial. The Chair then indicated that he and Steve are abbutters and are conflicted out of voting on the Application. The Chair then asked Brandon as project advocate on this Application to present the Application. Brandon presented the Application and explained the fact that the new fence is already in place. Brandon then asked Fay Martin to explain what had been done with the fence. Ms. Martin explained that the old fence was falling down and she found similar fencing. Ms. Martin explained the old fence was not installed competently. Ms. Martin explained that she did not come to the Commission prior to installing the new fencing because it was the same type of fencing. Ms. Martin said the new fencing came from Sudbury Cedar Fencing out of Marlborough and she was not certain what type of wood the fence was made of. Manny then interjected and asked if because the new fencing was of like kind would Ms. Martin have to come before the Commission. The Chair then reminded Manny that a replacement is not a repair and it needs Commission approval even if the replacement is of like kind. A minor repair in kind may be exempt, but not a replacement of a structure. The Chair indicated this is consistent with Commonwealth guidelines and surrounding towns and municipalities practices. Manny then stated that he thought because it is a replacement in kind, in his opinion the Application would not require public hearing. Pam agreed. Matt made a Motion the Application was insubstantial. The motion passed unanimously. A public hearing will not be required. The Commission will have a hearing at the following meeting to consider and vote on the merits of the retroactive Application. The Commissioners then briefly talked about the process of an insubstantial application and hearing. After the vote, Ms. Martin had a few general questions about prospective



upcoming repair work on the property and how best to go about it and work with the Commission.

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Zoom and in person meeting discussion

The Chair began talking about the new hybrid Zoom meeting process. There will be one room at Town Hall that can facilitate in person meetings and Zoom, so members of the public and Commissioners can attend either in person or remotely via Zoom. The Chair explained the process and wanted Commissioners to consider if this is something the Commission wanted to do. Pam brought the point up that Town Hall still requires masks. Richard explained that the Planning Board considered switching to hybrid but held back temporarily because of the mask requirement. Manny explained that he would prefer either all in person or all on Zoom. Manny states the hybrid model may be problematic from a technology standpoint. Matt stated he did not have a problem meeting in person, but he preferred to remain on Zoom and wait a little longer because of the mask requirement at Town Hall. The Chair agreed with the general consensus of commentary and stated it may be best to wait a few months and revisit the issue and see where everything is at.

2. Chair's update and progress report review

The Chair updated the Commission on trying to close out approved applications. The Chair indicated that he has a spreadsheet going back about 3 years of all approved applications. The Chair indicated that the Commission needs to follow up with these applicants and see if the work has been done or if there are any issues. If there are any outstanding issues they need be addressed. If there are no issues the application can then be closed. The Chair indicated he would be sending around an email assigning these applications to Commissioners to follow up on.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Shaker Herb House (ML)

Manny gave an update on CPC funding. Manny indicated he was hoping for a quick approval for funding of the CPC application. However, he was informed that each CPC application needs to be reviewed in turn. Manny also indicated that he reached out to Marie Sobalvarro at Town Hall about a contracting approach for obtaining available grant money. Pam briefly discussed other uses CPC may consider for the Shaker Herb House. The Chair stated that the Town needs to be decisive regarding the Herb House. If the Town is going to hold it the Town should maintain it. If the Town does not want to maintain the Herb House it should be sold to someone who does. Manny agreed with the general consensus.

2. Educating the public and other boards on the HHC mission and work



3. Bromfield House discussion (PM) - Town Meeting Results

The Chair went over the vote at Town Meeting and at the town election. Pam discussed that the Bromfield House supporters intend to go now to the Select Board and to make sure they have all the correct information. Pam asserted that the Bromfield House can be placed in a Historical District. The Chair agreed and also said a thorough recount of the Bromfield House history was featured in The Harvard Press. The Chair asked Pam to keep the Commission posted on any developments.

4. Shaker Meeting House shutters (PM)

Pam indicated she will put the correspondence the Commission if trying to serve the owners of the property under the front door this coming month.

5. 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:

None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

1. Monument Committee (MM)

The Commissioners shared their collective relief that the fallen tree on the Town common missed the new monument. However, nothing substantively new to report regarding the committee.

2. CPC (PM)

Pam indicated CPC will meet next month to talk to Park and Rec. about a request for funding. In the coming weeks CPC will be reviewing requests for funding.

3. Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

The Committee was talking about what roads are suitable for sidewalk and bike paths in Town. The Chair asks if any of these prospective changes are being considered on roads within the historic districts



4. Planning Board (RC)

Richard briefly updated the Commission on the proposed open space residential development bylaw to be presented for the Spring 2022 Town Meeting.

5. Devens Committee (RC)

Richard discussed the committee finalizing its recommendations for the rezoning of Vicksburg Square and will keep the Commission updated with any final recommendation regarding that topic.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

The Commission set the next meeting for December 1, 2021

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:43 pm