

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 **May 4, 2022 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: Sandra Femino, Shawm McCollim

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:00 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The Commission reviewed and approved the April 2022 minutes by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Resumption of Public Hearing on Hold Pending Placement of Sample Light Fixture: Harvard Advisory Energy Committee on behalf of the Town of Harvard – replacement of streetlights in the Harvard Common Historic District – David Fay – ON HOLD

The Chair reported he heard from David Fay yesterday. They are still waiting for the light fixture. Therefore, this project remains on hold.

ONGOING APPLICATION:

NONE

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NEW APPLICATIONS:

NONE

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

The Chair indicated he had an application from Fay Martin, 5 Fairbanks Street. The application was for the foundation of her house which is brick. She wants it repointed and repaired. The same materials are going to be used. The Chair believed this application was not applicable. Steve asked should we still assign an advocate just to make sure no additional changes are done that would come under our jurisdiction. The Chair asked does anyone object to not going through formal process and this would be replacement in kind, and not be applicable. Pam wanted clarity on the repairs. The Chair indicated they are not taking brick down, just repairing it in place. However, the Chair made it clear some of the bricks would likely need to be replaced. The Chair stressed that he believes this is repairment in kind. The Commission agreed, no formal vote was taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 16 Ayer Road – Concept Review – Sandra Femino

The Chair introduced Sandra Femino and gave the Commission an introduction as to the new rule regarding concept review and that this is not an official application, and there will be no formal vote. This is a process that gives a prospective applicant the opportunity to come before the Commission and present a concept design for Commission input before a formal application is filed. This is suppose to help streamline the process and provide guidance and clarity for residents before they file a formal application. Ms. Femino presented her concept design to the Commission. She indicated that she wanted to claim half of her porch and make it park of the house. She wants to enclose half the porch to give her and her family more living space. Ms. Femino wanted to move the door to enter into the living room, and match a new double window in the new enclosed space with a double window they already have to match.

The Chair asked for Commission feedback. Steve asked about the columns on the porch and if they would remain. Steve then wanted to make sure the columns would be evenly spaced. Ms. Femino indicated she is going to reduce the total width of the porch. The Chair asked if Ms. Femino would use an architect to help her draw plans for a prospective application. Manny asked if these revisions were on the side of the house. Ms. Femino indicated yes. Manny indicated that the columns should be evenly spaced. Manny asked the condition of the railings. Ms. Femino indicated they are stable and in fair condition. Matt asked if this porch and this area of the house is original to the house. Mr. Femino indicated the house was built in 1895. Mr. McCollim indicated he was not sure. The Chair indicated the foundation for this area of the house is brick, which would indicate it was original, but he was not sure. The bump out part of the basement was original. Matt indicated is there was care taken to make sure columns properly spaced he would not have an issue. The Chair then said he would focus on windows and compatibility, and care must be taken to make sure renovations are sensitive to the house. The Chair then asked if there would be one door or two doors put in. Ms. Femino indicated she wanted to make the current door a window, and add a new door with the enclosed bump out that would enter into the living room. Matt asked is windows could be reused. Mr. McCollim indicated they would like upgraded windows as they are aged. The attic level windows were redone in the 1980s, the rest, except the kitchen windows, look original. Matt also shared his concern he wanted harmony

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in the windows. The Chair indicated we should have an advocate for this project. Matt indicated that he would be happy to be the advocate as a formal application process moves forward.

The Chair asked Ms. Femino if she has any additional questions. She said no. She said this is a good process and happy to have had the change to present these concept designs and thanked the Commission.

2. Chair's Update and project progress report review – GT

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Historic Preservation Easements – Shutt Barn – John Lee

The Chair indicated the barn is not ready to move forward. He heard from John Lee. The Chair indicated that this is a good idea, and he hopes they pursue it to help preserve structures in a practical way working with the Commission.

2. Shaker Herb House Grant Application (ML)

Manny indicated the application looked in good shape. It was warrant # 21, item #7. Manny thought if they vote in one slate it should go quickly. If there are any questions Manny will be there. Manny indicated George would read Article #28 which would be contingent in the passage on #21 item #7. The Chair asked if people ask questions regarding CPC funding. The Chair cautioned that we should be ready to answer questions from any residents at Town Meeting. The Chair stated Manny should have some bullet points ready just in case there is town pushback. Manny concurred. The Chair asked about the preservation restriction article #28, and whether we only do the preservation restriction if #21, item #7 passes. Manny indicated that if warrant 21, #7 is not passed we should not move forward on #28. Manny indicated if both warrants pass, we should be in good shape to move forward and we have a good chance to get the grant. Manny indicated grant results are announced on June 22. The Chair again asked if 21, #7 is not passed, we would withdraw the second article, #28. Pam indicated that the history of CPC articles getting passed she thinks is fairly good.

3. Bromfield House – possible addition of Bromfield to Harvard Common Historic District and other changed to the district map (PM, GT)

The Chair indicated the report was sent around. He got a few comments back. The Chair again asked should the revision of the language and the Bromfield House be done together. The Chair indicated that he thinks they should both be in the same report and there can be two separate votes at Town Meeting. The Chair indicated his primary concern is not to jeopardize Bromfield House and its inclusion in the District. Manny cautioned school issues always raise alarm bells in town historically. Steven clarified that there are two separate votes, which mitigates the risk. Richard asked is that is procedurally ok. The Chair indicated he believes so. The Chair then went through the process as to how you change the map, and it is complicated. Richard indicated that he thinks you are okay either way, because there could always be a friendly amendment to strike the language if we do not think we have the support. Matt indicated how we educate the town on why we are doing this. Matt shared Manny's concern regarding school issues always raising alarm bells. The Chair indicated that we have to have a public hearing beforehand, and we will have a

HARVARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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chance to gage public sentiment then. In the end the Chair indicated in the end, if it becomes a problem, we will just drop it. The Chair called for a vote to approve the language in the Report as it is and add the language that was previously approved about changing the language on the map and include it in the Report. Pam made a motion to approve. Matt seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

1. 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)

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

1. Monument Committee (MM)

Nothing to report.

2. CPC (PM)

Nothing to report.

3. Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

Pam gave an update on Ayer Road sidewalk and bike lanes. DOT had some drawing to widen Ayer Road. Pam gave updates on side walks along Mass Ave and Bromfield, and the Complete Streets projects. Pam indicated she did not know how long this was going to take.

4. Planning Board (RC)

Nothing to report.

5. Devens Committee (RC)

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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None.

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

June 1, 2022 7:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED: by unanimous vote at 7:48 p.m.