

# 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 **July 6, 2022 at 7 pm**.

Submitted by Richard Cabelus, Secretary.

## **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

## **MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:**

Richard Cabelus (Secretary)

**AUDIENCE:** David, Carl, Sandra Femino, Shawn McCollim, Nick, Seth Trotz

## **TOPICS:**

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

**7:00 pm**

### **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Put off review of June 1, 2022 meeting.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. Resume hearing about changing lightbulbs in the streetlamps in the district. Had decided that older light fixtures would be preserved. Exploring the sample light that was installed. Mannie makes motion to reopen public hearing. Steve seconds. Unanimous vote.

### **ON-GOING BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion about lightbulb.

David said there is some choice in fixtures that differ in how bright the lights are, but not given a choice for the test light and doesn't know wattage and lumens. Did try to find that out. Could not get anybody at National Grid to respond over past 4 to 5 days. Lightbulb installed at wrong location—David says it's his error. Will be taken down. If there was a light there, we would put the old one back up again.

Matthew asked David how many lights are inoperable or turned off. David has done inventory of lights in



town and knows some are not working. Some have been fixed in the past year. If it's listed on inventory and we're paying for it, then by default, yes, if we switch to LEDs, we would put an LED there in place of the one that's not working. But the town has complete control over where the lights are. Ultimately up to Town Manager to decide. Matthew would like to hear Mr. Seipel's opinion on this issue because new light is directly across from his house.

George went down to look at just that light. Found it to be very bright, brighter than the ones that are there. As a Commission, can't make a decision until know the answers to what bulbs will be put up, whether they can be dimmed or not, and see an example of that. Thought light was harsh. Second issue—where are they located, whole other thing.

Matthew agreed that it's too bright, too concentrated. Creates bright reflection off the ground.

Steve asked about canopies and shields discussed before. Is that still in the mix or has that been removed? David says when LED bulbs were installed in Bolton, some people felt the light spread too much, wanted a skirt put around the fixture. National Grid accommodated them where were was a complaint about a specific light, but told David that wouldn't be an option for us because it was too expensive for them to custom-make these skirts and install them.

Steve asked about lumens. David says there is a range of fixtures available. Will go back to them and say, "What are our options in terms of lumens?"

Matthew suggested a diffuser might help.

Steve said if there's some comparison about lumens, that would be helpful. Says school has similar lights and they're not as bright. David will take a look at that.

Carl agreed with lights being too bright.

George said the issue will await more information. Steve makes a motion to continue the public hearing until we have more information. Pam seconded. Unanimous vote.

#### **ONGOING APPLICATION:**

For these projects, work was completed without a certificate. Ignore that fact and go through the process as though work not yet done.

Side issues, especially with regard to first application, was done with knowledge that application certificate was needed. That will be dealt with with the building inspector.

#### 1. 16 Ayer Road – replacement roof

Replacement of an existing asphalt roof with another asphalt roof.

Shawn spoke on behalf of Sandra. In May, got a letter from insurance company, if do not replace roof, insurance would be canceled as of August 9<sup>th</sup>. Hard to get people to come. Didn't want any lapse in



insurance. Pulled the permit. Had leaks in bathroom, bedroom. Sought exact replacement of roof.

Commission will review this at next meeting to decide whether to issue a certificate. Generally, this is an insubstantial change. George thought this should be considered a substantial change, which will require a hearing. In both cases, review would happen at August meeting.

Matthew brought up retroactive issue about classifying as insubstantial change. George said there was clause "unless ... in view of the circumstances, we should have a public hearing." Open to either way. Just change of notice.

Mannie brought up category of hardships. George said that means you get certificate, timing would not change.

Steve said change is substantial.

Matthew made motion to consider this substantial change and to have public hearing in August HHC meeting. Steve seconded. Unanimous vote.

2. 5 Old Littleton Road – landscape timbers

Nick had been through two applications. He was seeking approval from the Board to install landscape timbers to create better parking spaces on the front right side of house. Intended area about 22 feet by 17 feet. On right corner of 17-foot side, approximately 2 feet of landscape timbers installed to help level that area. Parking in that area before, but was sloped parking space. Idea was to put some stone dust and get the landscape timbers to make more suitable parking space. People who live across the street from them didn't like them parking on the street in that spot – made it harder for neighbors' cars to come in and out of driveway.

Second request was to install condenser unit approximately 13 feet back at the right side of the house with related piping for HVAC system.

George thought this change was substantial.

Mannie said condenser is hard to see. George said condenser is visible.

Steve asked if Nick had plans to change the surface. Nick said no.

Nick asked what Commission would like to see around condenser and for the pipe, if that should be painted color of the house or trim or?

Steve made motion that this was substantial change. Pam and George seconded. Unanimous vote. Nick will show up next month to ask further questions.

3. 11 Fairbank Street – replacing concrete walkways

Have two existing walkways on north side and south side of building. Right now, 24 inches wide. Because of the frost heaves and the fact that they weren't put in properly, they need to be replaced. To replace them, have to make them meet today's code, which is 36 inches wide.

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Pam thought the change was substantial in that the dimensions have been changed. Matthew agreed.

Mannie said it was going in the exact same place with the exact same materials. How far is it from the end of the walk to the railing? Steve said about 3 feet.

Mannie made a motion that it was substantial change. Matthew seconded. Unanimous vote.

## OFFICER ELECTIONS:

1. Brandon is off the Commission as of this month. Candidate Seth Trotz attended the meeting to observe. He shared with the Commission his interest in historical preservation and qualifications for the job. If anyone knows anyone else interested in being a commissioner, let George know.

George noted parts of the handbook had been changed and updated. Mannie said to decide at next meeting what we want to update. Pam said only a few pages would need to be changed.

## ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Barn

Nothing new has happened.

2. Shaker House Letter

HHC got a letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Brona Simon. "You're out of luck..." Had told them we didn't get the money.

3. Mannie's Letter

Mannie discussed the letter he wrote, about moving things over to Select Board. Mannie wanted to go forward with the letter, with an understanding that with George as the signatory, could edit it to his satisfaction. George suggested adding something like, "unless the Select Board decides they want to do something about it and wants HHC to be involved." Steve agreed and mentioned there were two new Select Board members, so their feelings may have changed. Pam suggested observing what's going on there.

Mannie made a motion to approve the letter with reasonable edits by him and George, to go to the Select Board before next month's meeting. Steve and Pam seconded. Unanimous vote.

4. Bromfield House

HHC got a letter from Jennifer Doherty. State Commission reviewed HHC's application to add Bromfield House to the Harvard County District and endorsed it. George informed Tim Bragan that this will be on the agenda for the fall meeting. Once the public hearing has happened, HHC will file something to be put into the warrant. Next step is to hold a public hearing to review the application submitted to the Commonwealth and Planning Board. August or September? Mannie would prefer to do it earlier rather than later. Will have to give notice to common district, make sure that it's published.

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## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

1. Monument Committee (MM)

Nothing to report.

2. CPC (PM)

Haven't met. Didi resigned.

3. Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

At an impasse. Have been meeting but nothing's really been done as far as town itself. Still trying to get feedback from Town Administrator and Select Board whether they're still a committee that needs to be there or should be disbanded.

4. Planning Board (RC)

Richard not here.

5. Devens Committee (RC)

Richard not here.

6. Design Review Board (SN)

Two days ago, received an email from an outside consulting firm that was hired by the Planning Board to go back and look at the Ayer Road Corridor again. What do we want in the commercial district? Sometime this month will set up Zoom meeting with Steve to start that process.

## SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

August 3, 2022.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 7:58 p.m. by unanimous vote.

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