

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, prior to the meeting's start, alert the chair to such and the chair will announce the fact, in accordance with The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

Following are the minutes for the regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission held at the Volunteer Room in the Town Hall, on Wednesday, **February 6, 2019** at 7pm. Submitted by George Triantaris, Secretary

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Pam Marston (Chair)
David Vannicola (Vice Chair)
George Triantaris (Secretary)
Steve Nigzus
Emanuel Lindo
Richard Cabelus

ABSENT:

Aron Clarke

AUDIENCE: Applicants and others listed below

CALL TO ORDER:

7:01

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Minutes of January 9, 2019 meeting reviewed and unanimously approved

PUBLIC HEARING:

Open Hearing

7:03

1. Ralph Macey, 5 Oak Hill Road, solar panels on southern exposure of garage.

Presentation of Application:

Ralph presented his applications to add solar panels to the garage roof.

Public Participation:

No members of the public appeared to comment.

Public participation in the meeting was closed

Deliberation:

This application was discussed at the last meeting and there was no further discussion.

Close Hearing

7:10

Vote:

The application was unanimously approved

Open Hearing

7:11

2. Scott Hayward, 1 Still River Road, new fire escape for General Store

Presentation of Application:

Neal O'Connor, general contractor for permitting for the Columbia Pictures project in Harvard, presented the applications (Scott

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Hayward was also present). Neal began by answering questions that had been raised at the last meeting. The stair system and supports were not changed, only the rails and balusters were replaced with the horizontal bracing shown in the photographs. This was done to increase the stability of the stairs and was thought to be compatible with the only other visible exterior staircase on the common (on the building at the northeast corner of Fairbank Street and Old Littleton Road). Pressure treated lumber was used with the intention of painting or staining it to match the color of the general store in the spring. There were questions about the design of the balusters and whether this is compatible with a colonial revival building (and the fact that the design was only partially compatible with the example on Old Littleton Road). There was also discussion about the fact that the application was made after, not before, the work was completed which is not the appropriate procedure for a design change.

Public Participation:

No members of the public appeared to comment.

Public participation in the meeting was closed

Deliberation:

There was further discussion regarding the design of the rails and balusters. It was noted that the building did not have a fire escape when it was constructed and the design has changed at least twice since the escape was added. There were conflicting opinions among the commissioners concerning the best path forward and whether the application should be accepted as written, denied, or modified. It was suggested that vertical balusters could be substituted on the two landings which would be more compatible with the design of the staircase on Old Littleton Road and might lessen the visual impact of the change to the horizontal rails of the stairways. Neal indicated that this could be done in a way that would meet the building code and that the change was possible. This solution was felt to be a compromise that might be acceptable.

Close Hearing

7:40

Vote:

To approve the application with the provision that the staircase be painted or stained the same color as the general store and that the horizontal supports on the landings be changed to balusters ~ Neal to provide a drawing of this change before approval is issued. Pam, George, Steve and Richard voted for and Manny and David voted against. Motion therefore passed by majority vote.

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED: None

NEW APPLICATIONS:

None

ON-GOING APPLICATIONS:

Scott Hayward, 5 Elm Street addition to residence on hold (likely until April meeting)

NEW BUSINESS:

Revise directions for applications for certificates

Commissioners asked to review instructions for applicants (one page document) currently on line and to bring suggestions and edits to next meeting that would clarify the process and encourage applicants to consult with HHC before filing.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Devens jurisdiction discussion (RC)

Richard has been in touch with a few people connected with the redevelopment of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station situated in Weymouth, Abington and Rockland as they are facing similar issues and will report back on what he learns.

2. Application to Mass Historical for Herb House: MHC grant and town matching funds (EL)

Manny and Pam attended a Mass Historical Commission workshop regarding the grant application process. HHC's application for a grant in connection with the Shaker Herb House was denied via a letter dated December 14, 2018.

3. Stonewall project and acquisition strategy (PM)

CPC will not be granting funds to complete the stonewall this year. HHC will make another request next year.

4. HHC handbook, what should be included and how to do production

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Manny and Pam will produce a prototype notebook of materials for commissioners to review.

5. Signs for town hall, Hildreth House and fire station (PM)

Pam informed that the sign project is on hold for now. HHC has provided design guidelines for signs in the town center.

6. Sidewalks (SRTS) discussion with Chris Ryan (PM)

There is a discussion about the possibility of a project to install sidewalks along Massachusetts Avenue.

7. Demolition delay (GT)

Commissioners asked to review the sample demolition delay bylaw and to be prepared to discuss a recommendation for drafting a bylaw for Harvard. George to provide a summary of some of the features that have been utilized in other towns.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Mass History Alliance dated January 4, 2019 inviting participation by HHC. It was decided not to participate at this time.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (DV)

Preliminary work has begun on planning the WWII monument project.

CPC (PM) Bromfield wall

See above

Cemetery Commission

None

Demolition Delay Committee (GT) and (PM)

See above

PUBLIC COMMENTARY None

EXECUTIVE SESSION None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2019

MEETING ADJOURNED:

8:29

DOCUMENTS:

Applications, letter regarding herb house grant application, sample demolition delay by-law, letter from Mass History Alliance.