

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** of a regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission, held at the Volunteers Room, in the Town Hall, on **Wednesday, February 5 at 7 pm.**

Submitted by George Triantaris, Secretary.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Pam Marston (Chair)
George Triantaris (Secretary)
Steve Nigzus
Emanuel Lindo

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

David Vannicola (Vice Chair)
Richard Cabelus

AUDIENCE:

Brandon Loughery

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:00 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Minutes of the Jan 2, 2020 meeting and public hearing unanimously approved as submitted.

PUBLIC HEARING: none

NEW APPLICATIONS: none

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED: none

ON-GOING APPLICATIONS:

Bromfield stone wall certificate of appropriateness extension discussion

Manny reviewed the plan for rebuilding the stone wall down Mass. Avenue to Pond Street (continuing from where the project left off last year). The fire chief has asked that the opening across from the Hildreth School be widened (from 16 to 20 feet) to allow emergency vehicles to pass through. There is also a discussion underway to open the wall at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Pond Street to make it easier for pedestrians to pass through and to facilitate snow removal. The Bromfield Trust and others are involved in this discussion. A motion was made and unanimously passed to renew the Certificate of Appropriateness originally granted on August 6, 2014 (and renewed on November 6, 2017), regarding this project, allowing for modifications to address the safety and traffic flow concerns outlined above.

Set up meeting with Marie Sobalvarro on stonewall RFP

Pam and Manny to meet with Marie to determine whether an RFP can be issued before the town meeting in

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May (where funding will be approved) to expedite the process and line up a contractor to do the necessary work over the summer.

NEW BUSINESS

Meet Brandon Loughery, possible new commissioner

Brandon introduced himself and expressed his interest in becoming a commissioner. His application has been submitted. Pam will work with Julie to determine next steps and ask that his confirmation be put on the Select Board agenda. A motion was made and unanimously approved to endorse Brandon's application.

Annual report discussion

Pam discussed the annual report which she submitted on behalf of the commission.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Town Center lighting and power lines discussion

George reported that the town center had lighting around the turn of the 20th century. Manny and Pam will ask Marie how the commission would request funds to engage a consultant to prepare a proposed design for lighting and eliminating above ground wires in the town center.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Revision of Rules and Regulations (previously known as policies and procedures)

George and Richard will work on revising the existing policies and procedures document which Richard has converted to a word document. It will be known as the Rules and Regulations document. There was a discussion about revising exemptions (public hearing required) vs revising the rules by which the commission operates (public hearing not required).

Streamline process for insubstantial changes in applications

The commission will prepare a list of changes will be considered as insubstantial and will not require a public hearing. This will be especially important in view of the HHC's recent decision to remove most of the prior exemptions (for features that can constructed or altered without review).

Design Guidelines

Manny is working on revising the Design Guidelines. There was some discussion as to whether the Harvard Design Guidelines should cover the same features as the Mass. Guidelines (e.g. Foundations).

Certificates of Appropriateness

Pam to work with Julie to post all recent Certificates on the HHC webpage in a folder organized by address of property and date.

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (DV) HHC letter to BOS endorsing WWII memorial renovation

CPC (PM)

Cemetery Commission

Demolition Delay Committee: (GT)

Discuss dates for BOS presentation of demolition delay slide show

Pam to talk to Marie about how to get on the Select Board agenda

Discuss final draft of bylaw sent previously

Slight edits made to the bylaw draft. Motion made and unanimously approved to present the bylaw with these edits as the final version for submission to the Select Board.

Review slide show explaining bylaw

George presented a slideshow explaining the demolition delay bylaw. This will be presented to the Historical Society and the Select Board. There was a discussion as to what groups might endorse the bylaw and help secure its passage at town meeting. Suggestions included the Council on Aging, Garden Club, Historical Society and League of Women Voters. There was also discussion of a possible informational session to be

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hosted by HHC for those interested – after the presentation to the SB and before the town meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: March 4, 2020

MEETING ADJOURNED:

8:14 pm

DOCUMENTS:

1. January meeting minutes
2. Certificate of Appropriateness regarding stone wall on Mass Avenue dated November 6, 2017
3. Plan for stone wall extension
4. HHC 2019 annual report
5. New Section 2A “exemptions from Review”
6. Design Guidelines discrepancies
7. Letter regarding Harvard’s War Monument Restoration
8. Demolition Delay Bylaw draft
9. Demolition Delay slideshow