

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 two public hearing and the regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission, held via Zoom, on **Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7 pm.**

Submitted by George Triantaris, Secretary.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

AUDIENCE:

Alice Thayer, Lucas Thayer, Colin Nygren, Marian McNabe, Pat Jennings, Marijke Vallaey, Don Dumont, Nick Boynton, Mary Ann Boynton, Traci Dunn, David Rosner, Andy Warner, Paul Willard, Keri Green, Karen Levitt, Stephen Morris, and Staci Donahue (liaison to planning board).

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:01 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Minutes of February 3, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous vote with Matt abstaining.

ONGOING APPLICATION: None

PUBLIC HEARING:

5 Old Littleton Road – Nick Boynton – Windows

Public Hearing opened at 7:14

Presentation opened

Presentation of application

Nick Boynton presented

Nick Boynton presented his application to replace and alter the windows at 5 Old Littleton Road. George has acted as his advocate and emphasized that the fact that the house has windows from a variety of periods and does not currently present a unified look was important to the consideration of whether they could be replaced. The existing windows are a combination of later Victorian, mid-20th century and modern. There do not appear to be any surviving early 19th century windows. George asked whether the entire window frames would be replaced or just the sashes. Nick reported that the sashes would be replaced unless the windows were resized. There was a discussion concerning the questions that needed to be decided. The first was whether the commission would approve replacing the existing sashes with the proposed Anderson divided light sashes, the second was the color of the sashes, the third the style of dividers, the fourth resizing 4 windows and the fifth replacing trim as needed. Nick reported that some of the windows would be replaced later and the basement windows might not be replaced at all. Manny asked about the proposed color of the new windows. Richard asked about the Fibrex materials that Anderson uses to fabricate the windows.

Presentation closed

Public Presentation opened

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Public comments in favor:

Pat Jennings who is a neighbor favored the project. Lucas Thayer who lives in the Shaker Historic District favored the project.

Public comments against:

None

Public Participation closed

Commissioners' Deliberation and Vote

The commissioners discussed the window project and reviewed again the questions outlined above and voted on each individually as follows.

Allow replacement of existing windows with Anderson divided light windows as specified in application.

Approved by unanimous vote

Allow bronze color to be used on the new sashes (There was a discussion about whether bronze or black was more appropriate, George felt black was more appropriate, several commissioners did not have a preference) Approved by a vote of 6 for and 1 against (Steve)

Approval of 6 over 6 mullions. Most commissioners felt that the colonial 6 over 6 was more appropriate for the age of the house in spite of the several styles now on the structure. Several pointed out that the basement and other windows that would remain would conflict with another style. The large porch windows will be replicated in their current configuration. Everyone felt a unified look would be more appropriate. The 2 over 2 design and 2 over 1 designs were unanimously rejected and the 6 over 6 design was unanimously approved.

Change in window size. There was a discussion about changing the size of 3 kitchen and one bedroom window. It was felt that since the windows are not currently the same size, nor do they line up vertically or horizontally, changing the size (especially on the side and rear of the house) would not be an issue. The change in size was approved by unanimous vote.

George was appointed project inspector.

Public Hearing closed 7:55

92 South Shaker Road – Alice Thayer – Fence

Public Hearing opened at 7:56

Presentation opened

Presentation of application

Lucas Thayer presented

Lucas Thayer presented his amended application to enclose his garden with an agricultural fence. The fence would be about 8 feet high and constructed of round wooden poles holding deer fencing as described in the application. Colin Nygren of Chestnut Tree and Landscape would install the fence for the Thayers. Colin described how the fence would be installed and offered that the fencing could be black or silver. Manny asked how the poles would be lined up and spaced and Colin relayed that they would use a laser to make sure they are straight and evenly spaced. Pam verified that the existing fence would be removed as soon as the new one was constructed.

Presentation closed

Public Presentation opened

Public comments in favor:

Marian McNabe (later revealed to not be a resident), Dan Dumont, Colin Nygren, Tony Moran (via email), Paul Willard, and Kerri Green

Public comments against:

Stephen Morris asked about the historic accuracy of the fence, Karen Morris asked about the silver and black color and the size of the fence.

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The fence would follow the current fence as closely as possible. George clarified that if any part of the fence is in the district the entire fence is subject to the commission's review. Charlotte Vallaeys asked if the new fence would entirely replace the old fence.

Public Participation closed

Commissioners' Deliberation and Vote

The commissioners discussed the fence. Steve liked the design and felt black was the best color. George liked the simple design which was consistent with the Shaker aesthetic. Richard favored the black fence material. Manny felt the Shakers would approve the precise design. Richard thought this was a simple solution. Pam favored this design. It was unanimously voted to approve the application as appropriate with the condition that the black material be used, the fence be constructed in the same footprint as the existing fence and the current fence be removed as soon as the new one is erected. Pam will be the project inspector.

Public Hearing closed 8:31

NEW APPLICATIONS:

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

94 Shaker Road – in kind repairs to slate roof approved by Pam

NEW BUSINESS:

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Bromfield House discussion (MM & PM)
Pam reported that the committee has received many options and will narrow these down and make a recommendation to the Select Board. If the recommendation is to sell the property with the house intact there will also be a recommendation that either the structure is added to the district or that the deed include restrictions. There was a discussion about the process for adding a structure to the district. It seems the property would not be sold until at least October so there would be time to prepare for a town vote at the fall meeting.
2. Possible expansion of historic districts (GT and RC)
Richard shared some examples of other towns that have included individual properties in a neighborhood or town wide district. He also pointed to the easement program provided by Historic New England. Further work would be needed to establish a process for Harvard residents petition to join a new district.
3. HHC information packet for district homeowners – update (BL and PM)
Letters have been printed and are ready to mail
4. Herb House (ML)
Manny reported that the Select Board indicated that it would support a grant application for maintenance for the herb house.
5. Photo record of historic districts (GT)
George has begun to photograph houses in the district and has a folder system in place to organize them. The goal is to complete this project before the trees leaf out.

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6. 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:

Letter from Marc Sevigny re herb house report (EL)

There was a discussion as to whether a written response to a letter from a resident in shaker village regarding the herb house report was necessary or appropriate. It was decided that the letter represents public commentary which will be received without comment from the commission. If changes are made to the herb house in the future that require a public hearing or discussion at future meetings there will be opportunities for further comment.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (RC)

CPC (PM)

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Staci asked for time on the next agenda to discuss 3 bylaws that will be proposed by the planning board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: April 7, 2021

MEETING ADJOURNED:

9:05 pm

DOCUMENTS:

Letter from Marc Sevigny
Applications