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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 March 1, 2023 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  
Seth Trotz

**MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:**

Matthew McRae

**AUDIENCE:** Davida J. Bagatelle, Library Trustee, Stacy C. Green, Chair Library Trustees, Fay Martin, Marty Green, Library Trustee, Jennifer Manell Library Trustee, Jamie Schwadel [RE] Architects, Jacob Turner [RE] Architects.

**TOPICS:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Chair called the meeting to order.

7:00 pm

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

No minutes to approve.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. Resumption of Public Hearing: Harvard Energy Advisory Committee on behalf of the Town of Harvard - replacement of streetlights in the Harvard Common Historic District - David Fay - ON HOLD

The Chair indicated the applicant is still waiting for a replacement bulb and will keep the HHC posted.

2. 11 Massachusetts Avenue: R Brandon Smithwood and Marguerite Davis, application for alterations to roofline of addition, replacement of windows on original house, removal of shutters, addition of solar panels on garage and other changes outlined in the application - ON HOLD - per Applicant's request.

The Chair indicated this Application is also on hold per applicant's request. The Chair will check with them as to when resumption of the application will take place.

3. 4 Pond Road Library: David Bagatelle for the Trustees of the Harvard Public Library, application for installation of poles and "sail" awnings.

At 7:04 Richard moved to open the public hearing and presentation. Steve seconded. The HHC opened the hearing and presentation by unanimous vote. The Chair then introduced the application. This is an application to install awnings in the back of the library to address shading issues. The Chair indicated there appears to be no conflicts with other HHC members to participate. The Chair indicated he sent a sampling material around to inspect. The Chair then turned the presentation over to Davida J. Bagatelle of the Library Trustees. The applicant began to share her screen. The applicant then reviewed the application. The applicant pointed out the rear of the Library was built for access to the public and to be used for educational purposes. The applicant indicated the sun really prohibits constructive use of the space as it becomes uncomfortable because of the elements. The applicant then indicates that the shade sails will serve the purpose to shade the area without much construction or disruption to the structure proper. The sails are removable and made of durable material and are widely used. The applicant believes that this is the best alternative for this application. The Applicant indicated the color had yet to be determined. It would be a three shade shape system, one rectangular sail and two triangular sails. The applicant then pulled up a color swatch. The Trustee Board desires to use the neutral color of desert sand for the sails. The applicant pulled up a sampling of the material and color of the material. The applicant then turned it back over to the Chair.

Steve made a motion to close public presentation and open for public commentary. Pam seconded. HHC voted unanimously to close the presentation and open public commentary. Stacy C. Green, Library Trustee Chair and resident of Whitney Rd. spoke in favor of the application. The Chair indicated he received no written comments on this application.

Manny asked about the vertical poles and the coloring. Ms. Bagatelle indicated they are looking for a very neutral color but nothing has been selected to date.

Manny made a motion to close public participation. Steve seconded. HHC voted unanimously to close public participation.

HHC then deliberated the application. Seth said he had seen similar structures work to great effect and seems like a great idea. Manny agreed with Seth's assessment. The Chair believed this is efficient and low-impact and likes the fact it can be taken down if necessary and not permanent.

Manny motioned to approve the application. Richard seconded. HHC voted to unanimously approve the application. The applicant thanked the Commission. The hearing adjourned at 7:15 pm

## **ONGOING APPLICATIONS:**

**1. 5 Fairbank Street:** Fay Martin, application for additional wooden fence, insubstantial change

The Chair introduced this application for an insubstantial change. The Chair reminded everyone that previous fencing was already done on the property last year. This is additional fencing of the same kind. Steve pulled up the application to screen share the old fence that was already approved, and the proposed new fencing. Ms. Martin indicated she added the fence because of the neighbors and to clearly assert her property line. The Chair then asked if anyone had any comments. The Chair asked for Commissioner comments. There were no comments. Pam motioned to accept the

application as insubstantial. Richard seconded. Vote: Pam: yes, Manny Yes, Seth, Yes, Richard, Yes. Steve and The Chair abstained as abutters.

## **NEW APPLICATIONS:**

### **1. 4 Pond Road - Library** - Marty Green for the Trustees of the Harvard Public Library, Concept Review for library pavilion project.

The Chair introduced this application and turned it over to Marty Green, Trustee of the Harvard Library. Ms. Green gave the reasoning to support the pavilion and how it has worked effectively in other communities. Ms. Green showed pavilions in other communities like Hampstead and Cohasset, MA. Ms. Green indicated they have been working with [RE] Architects, Jamie Schwadel and Jacob Turner. Ms. Schwadel and Mr. Turner then presented drawings and dimensions. Ms. Schwadel indicated the material will be metal and of a bronze coloring and wood ceiling. The roof would be metal seam and copper flashing to replicate the Library look.

The Chair then indicated that the Commissioners are just seeing this concept review and have not had too much time to digest the concept. The Chair asked about location and that it is not near the existing Library structure and that he liked the idea of having similar materials and colors and it will not be a glaring structure near the Library structure. Ms. Green indicated the Trustees wanted to stay clear of the open fielding that supports the flea market and Lions Club activities. They were also cognizant of not disrupting the open space view of the pond. Seth indicated the structure seems far out of the way. Manny inquired about the height and the rooflines. Ms. Schwadel indicated the structure will have a height of 15 feet. Manny inquired about the roof grading in the roofing of the Library versus the pavilion. Ms. Schwadel indicated she did not know the exact grading but was similar. Manny then asked about view obstruction making sure an unobstructed view of the Library from Mass Ave remains intact. Richard indicated he liked the idea of the structure, and how it preserves the open space. Richard inquired about the materials and it needs to be of good quality to compliment the Library and open space. The Chair sought clarification on the orientation of the structure. Ms. Schwadel then brought up a three dimensional graphic design that helped Commissioners better understand the location and orientation of the structure. The Chair then inquired about the next steps for the project. Ms Green spoke a little about how the structure will be financed, and the other government boards and agencies that may need to be consulted on the project. Steve then stated he supports the concept, but asked whether a salt box type structure may be more appropriate to soften the front of the structure. Ms. Schwadel indicated that they wanted an open design for an outside feel, and that is more appropriate for visibility and acoustically.

The Chair then indicated the HHC does not vote on this at this juncture, but went over the process when they came back. Ms. Green indicated that Tim Bragan indicated that a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Commission was what they should do first. Ms. Green indicated she realized she has to consult the building inspector and planning board as well. Ms. Green thanked the HHC and looked forward to moving the project ahead.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Chair's updates, procedural items, and project progress report review- GT**

Chair indicated next month a hearing needs to be held on proposed exemptions, and that can be wrapped up along with changes to the Rules and Regulations.

2. Commissioner's terms and anticipated vacancies

The Chair indicated there were 3 vacancies this year. Matt and Manny were not renewing. Richard is renewing, Pam indicated she indicated she plans on staying. There were 2 open spots, but the Chair was delighted that he found a resident of Shaker Village that is interested in joining the Commission. The Chair also indicated that upon Manny's departure the HHC will need an architect to help fill a vacancy, and if there is enough interest the Commission can have alternates as well.

**ON-GOING BUSINESS:**

1. Ongoing discussion of potential changes to application procedures and rules and regulations

Chair indicated next month a hearing needs to be held on proposed exemptions, and that can be wrapped up along with changes to the Rules and Regulations.

2. Bromfield House - addition of Bromfield House to Harvard Common Historic District

The Chair indicated the Commission and Town Clerk forwarded the bylaw revision to the Attorney General and waiting to hear back, and if no objection should be able to record with the Registry of Deed.

3. 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 Appropriates – Upload historical records on website (GT)

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:**

Monument Committee (MM)

Nothing

CPC (PM)

Pam spoke about the vote at Town Meeting to raise CPC funding and how it has to pass at the ballot box in May to become reality.

Advisory Committee (PM)

Have not met recently

Planning Board (RC)

Richard talked about the proposed Smart Growth Overlay District on Ayer Road and the upcoming public hearing on

March 20, 2023 at 8 pm. It is garnering much interest from the Town. Richard talked about the process of the hearing and possible bylaw revision.

Design Review Board (SN)

Nothing

Devens Committee (RC)

Nothing

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Before the meeting adjourned the Chair asked for Commissioners to look at the 11 Mass Ave. Project as it is very complicated and it may go forward in April. The Chair also talked about the need to follow up on past completed applications where Certificates of Appropriateness have been issued and circle back to ensure completion and compliance, but we will discuss that another time. At 7:59 p.m. Steve made a motion to adjourn until April 5, 2023 at 7pm. Pam seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 8:00 pm. The meeting adjourned.